

Nigeria says 163 killed in plane crash

LAGOS (AP) — A Nigerian military transport plane nose-dived into a swamp shortly after takeoff from Lagos, killing all 163 army officers and crew on board, the government said Sunday. The president, General Ibrahim Babangida, was cancelling all engagements for a week in sympathy with relatives of the dead, according to the statement. The Hercules C-130 aircraft, disappeared from the radar of Lagos' Murtala Muhammed airport three minutes after takeoff at 5 p.m. (1800 GMT) Saturday, the statement said. Sources at the airport said more than 200 people were aboard the plane. The crash site, 15 to 20 kilometres from the Lagos airport, was not discovered until 11 a.m. Sunday (1200 GMT), after two bodies were found floating at a village outside Lagos. Hundreds of friends and family members of the passengers gathered at the crash site Sunday. The entire nose and one wing of the aircraft were buried in the swamp. Clothes, shoes and toiletries floated on the water, covering an area of about 2,000 square metres. Reporters who visited the crash site said 15 bodies had been pulled from the wreckage so far. There were no immediate reports of survivors.

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Arafat meets Mubarak on peace process

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat met Sunday with President Hosni Mubarak to discuss the latest developments in the Middle East peace process. The Arab-Israeli bilateral talks in Washington ended their sixth round this week and are scheduled to meet again Oct. 21. No details emerged from the two-hour meeting and neither Mr. Arafat nor Mr. Mubarak made any statement after the talks. Mr. Arafat voiced worry in an interview published Saturday that Israel would make a separate peace with Syria that would not include settlement of the Palestinian issue (see story below). Israel and the Arab sides in the peace talks have given conflicting reports of the negotiations after the sixth round ended in Washington last week. Israel said some progress had been made while the Arabs reported no progress.

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King, Assad stress need for Arab cohesion

AMMAN (Petra) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Sunday made a telephone call to His Majesty King Hussein, congratulating him on his recovery and safe return home. King Hussein thanked President Assad and wished him continued good health and happiness and the Syrian people further progress and prosperity. The two leaders exchanged views on the current Arab situation, and stressed the need for Arab cohesion to be able to address the challenges facing the Arab Nation.

Jordan to switch time on Thursday

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will switch to winter time at midnight Thursday, Oct. 1, a communique issued by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker said Sunday. The clock will be put 60 minutes back to become two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

Guerrillas hit Israeli convoy

MARJAYOUN (R) — Guerrillas exploded a mine under an Israeli convoy in South Lebanon Sunday and security sources said a tank was destroyed. An Islamic group claimed responsibility for the explosion, the second guerrilla attack in as many days in Israel's self-declared "security zone" inside Lebanon.

Abu Nidal official killed in Lebanon

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — The bullet-riddled body of a Palestinian guerrilla chief was found in a cemetery in Lebanon's port city of Sidon Sunday, security sources said. They said Youssef Al Khalil, 25, a leader of Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), died Saturday after being hit in the head and chest. The sources gave no other details but it appeared his body had been dumped in the cemetery. Several Palestinian officials have been killed this year in a power struggle between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the FRC (see page 2). Those killed include Lieutenant-colonel Anwar Madi, commander of the PLO's main Fatah faction in Lebanon and top FRC official Walid Haid.

No new defence treaties — Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has no immediate plans for any new defence treaties with other countries, Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah has been quoted as saying. "Kuwait has no intention of signing any new security treaties at the present time," Sheikh Ali told the Arabic-language Al Anba newspaper. Kuwait has already signed defence cooperation pacts with Gulf war allies the United States, Britain and France. Sheikh Ali said his ministry had asked for a budget for arms procurement and facilities above the 3.5 billion dinars (\$12 billion) that was allocated in August for the 12 years. The budget was trimmed to meet economic conditions, he said (see page 2).

Israel: Accord reached in scam case

TEL AVIV (AP) — The justice ministry said Sunday a compromise has been reached in Washington's request to question a former Israeli general convicted in a multi-million dollar military kickback scandal. Ministry spokeswoman Etti Eshed said the agreement "satisfies both sides" but declined to give details. She said, however, that newspaper reports that the questioning would be conducted by closed-circuit television were "nonsense." Rami Dotan, formerly chief weapons buyer for the Israeli air force, was sentenced in March 1991 to a 13-year prison sentence for taking about \$10 million in kickbacks on the purchase of U.S. military equipment. Washington had asked for permission to interrogate him in the case.

Iran and UAE open talks on island feud

Emirates seen adopting tough stand while Tehran restates territorial claim

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Negotiators from Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) opened talks Sunday on a territorial dispute in the Gulf that could plunge the world's major oil region into new crisis.

Amid signs that the UAE was preparing to act tough, the Iranian negotiators led by senior Foreign Ministry official Mustafa Haeri-Poumiani were kept waiting in their hotel throughout the morning before the talks got underway.

Gulf diplomats said the emirates were preparing to insist that Iran should not rescind measures which it says amount to the annexation of the island of Abu Musa but should also hand back two other Gulf islands.

They said the UAE would demand the return of the Greater and Lesser Tumbas, seized by the former Shah of Iran in 1971.

The diplomats said if the talks failed to make headway, the UAE would raise the issue at the United Nations when its foreign minister makes his annual address to the General Assembly on Sept. 30.

The negotiations eventually got underway at the offices of UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, who returned to the UAE from his visit to the United States.

Saturday from talks with the UAE's major Arab allies — Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria and Morocco — that reaffirmed overwhelming Arab backing for the emirates.

The two sides met for less than two hours before adjourning their talks.

It was not immediately clear if the talks will resume Monday.

Iran's UAE Ambassador Hassan Aminian told Reuters the two sides were "very optimistic" they would be able to resolve their differences through direct negotiations.

He said the atmosphere was good during Sunday's discussions.

But he made no mention of the Tumbas.

Mr. Aminian said each side presented its position on the dispute Sunday and agreed to continue negotiating after the initial two-hour meeting.

Seif Saad Saad, director of Gulf affairs at the UAE Foreign Ministry, led his country's delegation to the closed-door talks.

The official Emirates News Agency (WAM) announced the start of talks "over the differences between the two countries on the islands of Greater and Lesser Tumbas and Abu Musa."

It gave no other details.

Iran seized the Tumbas, claimed by the Arab sheikhdom of Ras Al Khaimah, days before the British were pulling out from the region in 1971. It also jointly occupied Abu Musa with another sheikhdom, Sharjah. The two sheikhdoms then joined Abu Dhabi and four others to form the UAE federation.

The very start of the talks was regarded here as a step forward, but WAM's statement indicated that the UAE was taking a tough stand from the start by raising the issue of the uninhabited Tumbas as well as Abu Musa.

Iran earlier this month angered the emirates and the rest of the Arab World by claiming sole sovereignty over Abu Musa. The island lies in the mouth of the strategic Strait of Hormuz, vital gateway to the oil-rich Gulf region.

Officials and diplomats agreed there would be no easy settlement as each side would be presenting its own interpretation of an agreement reached under British mandate two decades ago.

The UAE asserts the agreement clearly indicates the island

Rabin says summit with Assad needed for peace

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Sunday that a meeting between him and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad would be needed to achieve peace between their two countries.

Mr. Rabin's comment came after a month of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington ended with hints of progress but no breakthrough.

Speaking on Israel Radio, Mr. Rabin said that peace-making will require "the high-ranking political ranks of Syria to show to the Israeli public — and even more to the Syrian public — that the political leadership is looking towards peace."

The prime minister said Syria need not take such an extreme step as the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's 1977 visit to occupied Jerusalem that set the stage for an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

But he said that Israel had long pushed for direct meetings between its own leaders and those of Arab countries, especially Syria.

"Without the issue being brought to realization by the highest ranking of both countries, it will be very difficult to achieve peace at all," Mr. Rabin said.

The prime minister also said in an interview published Sunday that he was still worried about Syria's true intentions in the U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Israel's newspapers and broadcasts carried numerous interviews just before the start of the Jewish new year about the talks, which adjourned Thursday until Oct. 21.

Asked by the daily Maariv if he believed that Mr. Assad truly wanted peace, Mr. Rabin said Syria must be judged by its views on a full treaty including open borders, trade and an exchange of diplomats.

"This component is greatly lacking on Syria's part. Therefore, there is still room to be cautious about Syria's intentions," Mr. Rabin was quoted as saying.

Asked about Israel's aims, Mr. Rabin said his government was negotiating with Syria for a peace that would avoid returning the entire Golan Heights.

His remarks were intended partly to head off criticism in response to Education Minister Shulamit Aloni's comment last week that Mr. Rabin would withdraw from the entire Golan in stages to gain peace. Mr. Rabin termed her comment "total nonsense."

Since taking office in July, Mr. Rabin had put much effort into convincing Israelis that he would assure "security" for Israel before giving up any of the Golan.

Earlier this month, an opinion poll showed 50 per cent of Israelis objected to giving up the strategic plateau even for peace. Still, pollsters noted that two years ago, about 95 per cent of Israelis refused to give up the Golan.

Israeli generals say they detect in Mr. Assad a serious desire to negotiate with Israel.

Inspectors verify missing munitions at Muthana

BAGHDAD (R) — United Nations inspectors flew to Iraq's main chemical facility of Muthana Sunday and verified that munitions missing from other sites had been moved there.

Chief inspector Bernhard Brunner spent 10 hours in Muthana where he found the munitions which the Iraqis had removed from two sites near Habaniya 60 kilometres southwest of Baghdad.

Mr. Brunner, a Swiss, told reporters the team saw the munitions and everything was in order. He had said earlier "several hundred" munitions were missing from two storage sites near Habaniya and believed the Iraqis had transported them to Muthana for destruction.

The U.N. has designated Muthana, 130 kilometres northwest of Baghdad, as the site for destroying Iraq's stockpile of chemical weapons under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire.

The Iraqis have dumped between 30,000 and 40,000 bombs, rockets and shells there but U.N. experts say thousands more are still at other chemical facilities around the country.

Opposition claims attack

An opposition radio claimed Sunday that Shiite Muslim rebels have smashed two Iraqi army battalions in clashes in the southern marshes, Tehran Radio reported.

The Iraqi rebel report could not be independently confirmed. The radio quoted the Iran-based "Radio Revolutionary-Iraq" as saying the fighting took place near the southern city of Al Anbar.

The rebel radio said the two battalions totalling about 3,000 men are part of the Iraqi army's 42nd brigade.

Rabin is hesitant to end PLO ban

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has cast doubt on plans to lift a ban on contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), voicing fears it would encourage renewed U.S. talks with the organisation.

His comments, in a newspaper interview four days after the justice ministry announced a delay in presenting the reform to parliament, represented a retreat from government pledges given after he took office in July.

"It depends what changes and the timing must also be examined," Mr. Rabin said when asked if he planned to change the law. The interview was printed in the Maariv daily Sunday.

"If, for example, changing the law gives legitimacy to the United States for renewing its contacts with the PLO, there is some loss of value," Mr. Rabin said.

The United States began formal talks with the PLO after it accepted Israel's existence in 1988.



His Majesty King Hussein waves to guests as he arrives Sunday to attend a lunch hosted by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (Petra photo)

Crown Prince hosts welcome lunch for King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday attended a lunch at the Royal Court hosted by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in the course of celebrations marking the King's recovery from illness. The lunch was attended by senior officials, high-ranking army officers, members of Parliament, tribal leaders, union presidents and key public figures.

In an address at the gathering, the Crown Prince welcomed the King back in Jordan

at the head of his Jordanian family.

Prince Hassan also welcomed the guests to the lunch and said that it was an occasion for optimism and for renewed hopes for further progress and construction to be carried out under the King's leadership.

Ramtha and Maan folk troupes presented performances of national dances and songs, and the leaders of the groups presented the King with tokens: a sword and a copy of the Holy Koran.

Accompanying the King to the lunch were their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the speakers of parliament, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid and other dignitaries.

Among those invited also were heads of Christian communities and Muslim scholars, directors of local banks, and delegations from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad also attended a major celebration organised by Marj Al Hamam Municipality.

The town's mayor, Saoud Al Khulief, and local notables delivered addresses. Folk troupes held dances and sang national songs.

Elsewhere in the Kingdom, celebrations and rallies continued Sunday.

Reports from Karak said

(Continued on page 5)

Talks with Israelis made some progress, but not enough, Palestinian officials report

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Israel continues to drag its feet in peace talks with the Palestinians and basic differences between the two sides remain unaddressed after six rounds of negotiations, an advisor to the Palestinian delegation said Sunday.

"They (Israel) are continuing to move very slowly and that is one of the major problems that we have," said Tayseer Aroui, a member of the 14-member steering committee which guides the Palestinian delegation.

Mr. Aroui said the Israeli side showed "some seriousness during the final week" of the sixth round of negotiations and only after heavy public criticism by Haidar Abdul Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating team.

The sixth round of bilateral

talks — separate sessions between Israeli delegations and Syrian, Jordanian, Palestinian and Lebanese teams — ended in Washington, D.C., Thursday after a month-long session. The seventh round is scheduled to begin there on Oct. 21.

Most of the Palestinian delegates flew to Amman Friday and Saturday and left for the occupied West Bank early Sunday. Two or three of the delegates were scheduled to fly to Tunisia for consultations with the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"The progress achieved on the Palestinian-Israeli track was positive in some aspects and negative in other aspects," Mr. Aroui said. "However, the overall progress in this track was very little, particularly in view of the fact that the talks lasted for one month," Mr. Aroui told the

Jordan Times.

At the same time, "taking into consideration the complex issues involved, we cannot expect dramatic progress overnight," he said.

Sameer Abdullah, a Palestinian negotiator, said the Israeli side was concentrating on negotiations with Syria at the expense of other tracks.

Israel "has shifted its negotiations priorities and concentrated on resolving its conflict with Syria," Mr. Abdullah was quoted by the Associated Press as saying. His comment was interpreted as reflecting a "growing Palestinian fear" that the new Israeli government of Yitzhak Rabin was sidelining its peace talks with the Palestinians in its quest to achieve peace with Syria.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was quoted on Saturday as criticising Mr. Rabin for Israel's concentration on Syria.

"Now Rabin envisages making peace with the Syrians, he who based his electoral campaign on a promise to make peace with the Arabs, and especially with the Palestinians," Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying by the French daily Le Monde.

"What happened to the political and national rights of the Palestinian people? They are going to create another Camp David," the PLO leader said, referring to the separate peace agreement Israel and Egypt signed in 1979.

Asked whether the Palestinian delegation felt there was any reason for such fears, Mr. Aroui said there was no ground for worry.

"In fact we believe that progress reached in any track will help

(Continued on page 5)

Palestinian detainees on hunger strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian prisoners went on indefinite hunger strike Sunday to draw attention to mistreatment and poor conditions in Israeli jails.

"In light of the current negotiations for a peace settlement in the Middle East, we are requesting the international community to initiate timely and serious intervention with the Israeli authorities," said a statement from the Palestinian Mandela Institute, a human rights group.

Israel prison authority spokeswoman Shulamit Meiri said she would have a statement on the strike only Wednesday after the three-day Jewish new year holiday.

Some 3,000 prisoners were refusing food in Beersheba, Ramle,

Ashkelon, Nafas, and Kfar Yona prisons in Israel and Eijnad and Jenin prisons in the occupied West Bank, said Faraj Ghoul, a lawyer in the Gaza Strip.

"The strike began this morning in the seven major prisons. We expect it to spread. They are taking only water," he said.

The hunger strikers demanded the closure of solitary confinement sections in the Beersheba and Ramle prisons, an end to beatings, and better medical treatment and food.

Palestinian sources said most other prisoners would join the strike.

Ms. Meiri and an army spokesman said they could not provide an up-to-date total on the number of Palestinians held until after the holiday. Nearly 10,000 prisoners were being held a year ago.

Israeli soldiers Saturday fatally shot a Palestinian while chasing stone-throwers in the occupied West Bank, the army said.

The incident started after a group of Palestinians hurled stones and cement blocks at the army patrol in the village of Ubbadiyah near Bethlehem.

After the demonstrators ignored orders to halt, the patrol gave chase, then eventually opened fire, the statement added.

Faisal Abu Sarhan, 18, was seriously injured and later died from his wounds, it said.

The death brought to 956 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers or civilians since the uprising against Israeli rule began in the occupied territories in December 1987.

Pakistani party arming Hekmatyar — Rabbani

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghanistan's president Sunday accused a powerful Pakistani religious party of supplying weapons to help dissident rebels try to overthrow his government.

Speaking to reporters before departing for Iran, President Burhanuddin Rabbani said he was confident the Pakistani government had stopped all weapons shipments to the renegade Hezb-e-Islami factions headed by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

But Mr. Rabbani said he had information that some arms had been clandestinely shipped last month by Pakistan's Jamaat-e-Islami party to Mr. Hekmatyar's forces entrenched on the southern edge of the Afghan capital of Kabul.

Mr. Hekmatyar's fighters pounded the city with rockets and mortars for most of August, killing at least 2,000 people and wounding nearly 10,000 others. The pitched battle prompted an estimated 500,000 people — one-third of Kabul's population — to flee the city.

Much of Kabul has been without functioning electricity and running water for months.

"He was a close friend," Mr. Rabbani said of Jamaat-e-Islami's leader, Qasi Hussain Ahmad. "It's a shame. Instead of contributing to peace, he has contributed to the bloodshed."

Jamaat-e-Islami is considered the most organised and influential of Pakistan's religious parties.

Kabul frees former vice-president, page 2

U.S. to supply Apache and Blackhawk helicopters to Israel

ARLINGTON, Ohio (R) — The White House said Saturday the United States would supply Israel with Apache and Blackhawk helicopters.

A statement released by the White House said President George Bush was campaigning in Ohio said Mr. Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had reached agreement on the measures, which it said would be initiated by the United States "in the very near future."

"These measures include the supply of Apache and Blackhawk helicopters and the prepositioning of advanced defence equipment in Israel," the White House statement said.

White House spokeswoman Judy Smith said most of the equipment would be supplied to the Israelis next year.

She refused to say how many Apache and Blackhawk helicopters were involved in the deal.

Asked whether the decision to supply the weapons was intended to reassure the Israelis after the president announced the sale of 72 F-15 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia about two weeks ago, Ms. Smith declined to answer directly.

But she said the move was intended to show that the United States would "maintain its ongoing commitment to the preservation and maintenance of Israel's qualitative edge in the region."

She said the equipment would be drawn down from United States military stocks. Congress had authorised such transfers of military equipment to Israel about two years ago.

Israel's defence ministry also announced the deal, and said it included stockpiling U.S. army, navy and air force equipment in Israel.

"The package was concluded last night between President

George Bush and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. It is a significant step to maintain Israel's qualitative edge," ministry spokesman Oded Ben-Ami said.

He said negotiations had been under way on the package since Mr. Rabin visited Mr. Bush last month at Kennebunkport, Maine.

Israel sources said contacts intensified after Mr. Bush's announcement that he would back the sale of F-15s to Saudi Arabia — still officially at war with Israel — which raised strong protests from Israel and some members of Congress.

Mr. Ben-Ami said Israel was getting Blackhawk transport helicopters for the first time. Under the deal, Israel will also get an unspecified number of Apache attack helicopters.

Washington would invite Israel to participate in the planned U.S. system for global protection from missile attack, he said. High-level technology cooperation would be stepped up.

Israel is also to receive U.S. arms under a \$700 million "draw down" deal which allows the Pentagon to provide the Jewish state sophisticated equipment which it no longer needs.

"There will be stockpiling and repositioning of items from the American army, navy and air force. It is all kinds of artillery shells and missiles," Mr. Ben-Ami said.

Officials in Washington have said the United States would store arms such as air-to-air missiles carried by jet fighters and the latest Patriot anti-aircraft missiles in Israel.

The equipment would strengthen the U.S. position in any emergency in the Middle East, they said.

Ms. Smith said the "advanced defence equipment" referred to advanced munitions, but she

could give no details on how it would be "prepositioned," or stockpiled in Israel.

The White House statement said Mr. Bush and Mr. Rabin also agreed that there would be closer ties between the two countries' armed forces and "cooperation on technology upgrades and the start of discussions on Israel's participation in the global protection system."

White House aides said this was a system of early warnings of missile attacks.

"The United States and Israel intend to continue consultations for the purposes of determining additional measures necessary to maintain Israel's qualitative military edge," the statement said.

It was released aboard the president's campaign train on a whistle-stop tour just after passing Arlington, Ohio.

Israel opposed the president's decision earlier this month to sell the F-15s to Saudi Arabia, with whom Israel is still formally in a state of war.

Mr. Bush promised at the time he announced the decision that he would watch out for Israel's military edge in the Middle East.

The F-15 sale was announced on a campaign trip to St. Louis, where the planes are built by McDonnell-Douglas Corporation.

The move saved several thousand jobs that the company had in Missouri, a state critical to Mr. Bush's reelection chances.

The White House statement Saturday suggested the defence articles to be supplied to Israel would be drawn from United States stocks.

It said the decision would be implemented "pursuant to previously enacted legislation that authorised the transfer to Israel and prepositioning in Israel of defence articles drawn from United States stocks."

Palestinian feuding escalates

BEIRUT (AP) — The long and bloody feud between Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and his arch-enemy Abu Nidal has flared again as the renegade Palestinian tries to torpedo the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Ten Palestinian officials have been killed and two critically wounded in Lebanon and Europe in a state of fit-for-fat attacks by Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fatah, the largest PLO faction, and Abu Nidal's Fatah-Revolutionary Council (FRC).

The PLO has also sentenced to death three Abu Nidal men convicted by a guerrilla court for slaying Fatah loyalists.

The latest spate of assassinations began June 8, when Arafat's aide, the PLO's intelligence chief, was shot dead outside a Paris hotel.

Among the other fatalities: Anwar Madi, Fatah's militia commander in South Lebanon, killed June 30, and Walid Khaleel, Abu Nidal's top aide and official spokesman in Lebanon, gunned down in Beirut July 23.

Fatah guerrillas cracked down on Abu Nidal's activists South Lebanon Sept. 9. Some 75 people were killed and 200 wounded in the three-day confrontation.

The spiralling violence has driven the two factious officials underground. Many have abandoned their offices in Beirut and the south. Others have gone abroad.

Neither side is willing to talk about the bloodletting. However, Fatah has accused Abu Nidal's group of "seeking to plunge the Palestinians into a horrid bloodbath... and launching a suspicious campaign... prepared by regional and international parties with the aim of undermining Palestinian capacities."

The bloodshed, and the threat of intensified opposition from the radicals, has led to the PLO's Iraq and political isolation.

The PLO's main bankrollers — Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Arab states — cut off funding to the PLO in 1990.

Mr. Arafat said last week that much of the funds are now being channelled to Abu Nidal and other hardliners.

A well-informed official from a PLO faction, which is neutral in the feuding, said the violence is linked to the U.S.-sponsored peace talks.

"Arafat seems to be willing to offer a lot of concessions which are unacceptable to many Palestinians," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Abu Nidal's trying his best to undermine what the PLO's doing," he said.

The PLO shows no sign of deviating from its current policy, even though it is physically excluded from the talks and has to deal through Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Mr. Arafat and Abu Nidal have been at odds with each other since Abu Nidal, whose real name is Sabri Al Banna, broke away from Fatah in 1973 after Mr. Arafat began moving towards negotiations with Israel.

Over the years, Abu Nidal's squads have killed many of Mr. Arafat's closest aides.

He has also been blamed for many deaths over the last decade, including the Dec. 23, 1985, attacks on Rome and Vienna airports in which 17 people were killed.

The late Salah Khalaf, the PLO's intelligence chief and close Arafat aide, contended years ago that Abu Nidal's organisation had been penetrated by Israeli intelligence, which manipulated it by having it liquidate PLO officials.

Ironically, Mr. Khalaf was assassinated himself in Tunis Jan. 14, 1991, by an Abu Nidal gunman.

Kuwait minister complains of small budget

KUWAIT (AP) — Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Al Sabah complained that Kuwait's military was not getting the money it needs to rearm, press reports said. "The Defence Ministry requested more than 3.5 billion dinars (\$12.25 billion), but it had to make do with this sum because of the economic situation in the country," the pro-government daily Sawt Al Kuwait quoted the minister as saying. He was referring to an emiri decree issued last month that added \$12.25 billion to the ministry's budget to spend over the next 12 years. Sheikh Ali said Kuwait's expenditure on armament within the regular budget does not exceed five per cent of its national income, while other Arab Gulf countries spend between 12 and 15 per cent of their incomes on buying weapons. Kuwait's annual income is around \$7.5 billion. Security is a central concern in the current campaign for Oct. 5 parliamentary elections, especially since Iraq has not dropped its claim to the emirate. The emirate is trying to rebuild its 21,000-man army that crumbled in the face of Iraqi invasion in August 1990. Kuwaiti armed forces lost more than 90 per cent of their equipment during the seven-month invasion that ended in February 1991. Major purchases expected include from 300 to 400 main battle tanks. Sheikh Ali told Sawt Al Kuwait that the emirate will not sign any more defence pacts. Kuwait has signed 10-year defence cooperation agreements with the United States, Britain and France.

Tunisia's rights group to resume activities

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's human rights league, legally dissolved in June, is getting ready to resume its activities under a compromise deal with the government. "Following a decision by President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali to authorise us to hold an extraordinary congress, we have decided to form a preparatory commission," said Tawfik Boudherbala, secretary general of Tunisian League for the Defence of Human Rights (LTDH). The league, founded 15 years ago, is the oldest and one of the most active humanitarian organisations in the Arab World. It stopped activities in June to avoid submitting to a new law of associations which it considered intended to limit its independence. The compromise emerged after mediation by Daniel Jacobi and Patrick Bandonin, president and secretary general of the Paris-based International Federal of the Rights of Man (FIDA), who had a meeting in Tunis with Mr. Ben Ali this week.

Cyprus president calls for federal state

SEVILLE, Spain (R) — George Vassiliou, president of Cyprus, called Saturday for the reunification of the island and the creation of a federal state. "The forced division of our country should end," he said during a visit to Seville's Expo 92 universal exhibition for Cyprus's national day. He said reunification should be "on a federal" basis. "It is in the interests of all the people of Cyprus — Greek and Turkish Cypriots — and will give us the possibility to live... in peace and tranquility," Mr. Vassiliou said. Under a United Nations reunification plan, a central government in Nicosia would run a single state divided into a zone for each of the two communities. U.N.-sponsored talks between Mr. Vassiliou and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş are set to resume in New York on Oct. 26.

Uber finds to go on display for first time

MUSCAT (AP) — Some of the finds from the fabled lost city of Ubar will go on display for the first time at an exhibition the sultanate is holding next month in Budapest, a government official said Saturday. The exhibition is the second major one organised by the sultanate outside the country. The first was held two years ago in Strasbourg, France, said Mohammed Ali Al Riyami, the Ministry of Information. The Oct. 14-25 exhibition in Budapest will be opened by Information Minister Abdul Aziz Mohammed Al Rowsas. The shows are designed to tell the history of the country but the progress made over the past 22 years and since Sultan Qaboos took over the rule. Ubar, a historic city that was buried in the sand, was recently unearthed by British explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes, with the help of data provided earlier by satellite and the U.S. space shuttle Challenger. Among the items on display from the city will be a chest and pottery, Mr. Riyami said.

Earthquake shakes two south: Iran provinces

NICOSIA (AP) — An earthquake measuring 4.1 on the Richter scale shook two provinces in southern Iran Sunday. There was no immediate report on injuries or damage, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said. IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said the earthquake struck at 3:42 a.m. (0012 GMT) and the epicentre was 280 kilometres southeast of Shiraz near the Evaz and Bastak districts of Fars and Hormuzgan provinces. It said the seismography centre at Shiraz reported the quake measured 4.1 on the Richter scale, which gauges the energy released by an earthquake as measured by the ground motion recorded on a seismograph. Every increase of one number means the ground motion is 10 times greater. An earthquake measuring 4 on the scale can cause moderate damage.

Kuwait details terms of offset programme

KUWAIT (R) — Foreign investors in Kuwait will have to invest at least 30 per cent of the value of state contracts in local projects under an offset programme to be implemented soon, a government official said. "We are studying how to bring the programme into force," said Mazen Madou, a senior Finance Ministry official involved in implementing the offset programme. He told Reuters it was likely to come into a force during this fiscal year, which ends in June 1993. Contractors would be liable to pay fines of up to six per cent of the value of their contract for any breach of the offset programme, he said. He gave no further details. To give an example of how it works, a firm that wins a contract from the state to repair an oil refinery for \$100 million would be asked to invest in a local project. It may choose to spend the additional \$30 million on providing research, technical and training expertise to local firms. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have similar programmes.

Kuwaitis flock to hear candidate's jokes

KUWAIT (R) — Mohammad Hafaiti says he is a serious candidate in Kuwait's October elections, but it's his jokes that attract hundreds of potential voters every night. "Is the government supporting you?" asked one of the white-robed Kuwaitis gathered around him near the capital on Saturday night. "Look at my carpets and decide," he replied. The motley collection of carpets overlapping each other in his election tent paled in comparison with the sumptuous decor inside the tents of some of his pro-government rivals. Mr. Hafaiti, an independent contesting a suburban seat against 18 others in Oct. 5 parliamentary polls, urged his audience to go and eat at other "diwanias" — informal courts — and then come back and listen to him. Some residents say a large turnout at an election tent may have more to do with the food on offer than enthusiasm for the political menu. Mr. Hafaiti had no food and drink to offer his audience, but he was opening his heart on all the issues, said one Kuwaiti who listened to him every night and described his wit. "Name one person who entered parliament a poor man and left parliament a poor man," Mr. Hafaiti, who is campaigning against corruption, said to laughter during Saturday night's diwaniya.

Iraq to build tallest TV tower in Mideast

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iraqi company plans to build the tallest television tower in the Middle East to improve transmissions around the country, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. The agency said the 320-metre tower will be built by the Al Fao company near Turbil in the western province of Al Anbar. The work is expected to be completed next July. INA said the State Establishment for Automobile Industry was building a similar tower in Baghdad that would be completed by February.

Guerrilla said killed in flight with Israelis

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli troops shot and killed a guerrilla during a firefight in South Lebanon Friday night, the army command said Saturday. The army statement said the soldiers, patrolling Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon, encountered a guerrilla near the village of Houna in the area of Aramita and opened fire. One guerrilla died and several were wounded in the clash, the statement said. The wounded fled with the rest of the squad north of the Israeli-patrolled zone, army radio reported. No Israeli were hurt in the gunfire, the army added. Military sources said a page of the Quran, a Soviet-made Kalashnikov rifle, hand grenades, a bomb and ammunition were found next to the body of the dead guerrilla. The group apparently belonged to the pro-Iranian Hizbollah and had intended to plant bombs and attack Israeli troops in the "security zone," the sources added. Earlier this week, Israeli troops ambushed a guerrilla squad in the "security zone," killing three. Israel carved out the 1,100-square-kilometre strip when it withdrew from Lebanon in 1985.

Angry mob stones Egyptian police station

CAIRO (AP) — An angry mob stoned a police station and burned seven cars Saturday night after a baker who had been beaten by a policeman died in hospital, a police officer said Sunday. The police officer said 11 people were arrested in the northern town of Abu Hamad, around 85 kilometres north of Cairo, where the violence took place. He said the police chief and his deputy were wounded by stones and were hospitalised. The officer, speaking on condition of anonymity under ministry rules, said that he did not know about casualties among the several hundred protesters. But the daily Al Akhbar said that 20 demonstrators were injured during the clash with police after tear-gas was used to disperse them. The paper said five were seriously hurt. The police officer said the trouble started Thursday when a policeman, Mansour Mohammed Saleh, beat up a baker, Mahgoud Abdul Rahman. Begg, whose age was not available, was hospitalised. The officer said that the baker died in hospital Saturday of an unrelated problem. But his family and friends believed it was from the beating he took and decided to retaliate. In August, two people were killed in another Nile Delta town when police opened fire to disperse an angry mob that attacked a police station after rumours that a villager died there under interrogation.

4 policemen killed in ambush in Algiers

ALGIERS (R) — Gunmen ambushed and killed four policemen patrolling a Muslim fundamentalist stronghold in Algiers Sunday. City police headquarters, quoted by the official news agency APS and Algiers Radio, said six or seven men opened fire on the patrol in the eastern suburb of Hussein Dey. Two detectives died on the spot. Another detective and a police officer died shortly after in hospital. The attackers struck around 1:45 a.m. as the four men, all aged 27, drove near the Maqama Mosque. It was the most bloody attack in the capital since Feb. 10, a day after a state of emergency was decreed to crush fundamentalist unrest. Six members of the security forces were killed in a hail of automatic gunfire on two patrol cars in the heart of the old city.

Rebel Kurds kill 14 soldiers in southeast Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Fourteen soldiers were killed and three wounded in two attacks by Kurdish rebels fighting for a separate homeland in southeast Turkey. Local journalists said 10 soldiers, including two non-commissioned officers, and a civilian died when Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels ambushed a military convoy between the towns of Bitlis and Murti late Saturday afternoon. They said four soldiers were critically wounded and one soldier was missing. In another incident four soldiers were killed and three others wounded in a PKK raid on a military post at Ucdamla village near the town of Lice last night, the journalists said. Officials at the regional governor's office in Diyarbakir said they had no confirmation of the two raids. The attacks came ahead of a tour of the southeast by Turkish Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Dogan Gures and Defence Minister Nevzat Ayaz. They will assess the security situation in the area where more than 4,800 people have lost lives in the last eight years in PKK-related violence.

Kenyan helicopter, three crew detained in Somalia

NAIROBI (AP) — A Somali warlord's men detained three Kenyan air force crewmen in south-western Somalia after their helicopter landed there, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

James Simani, a spokesman for the ministry, said the aircraft and its crew were being held near Bardera, 150 kilometres from Kenya's border.

Mr. Simani said the helicopter was enroute Wednesday from the border town of Mandera to northeastern Kenya's administrative town of Garissa, 445 kilometres southwest of Bardera when it was lost.

"It is true one of our aircraft strayed into Somalia and we are trying to get it back together with the crew," Mr. Simani said.

On Friday, a U.N. source in Mogadishu, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the United Nations was negotiating for the helicopter's return.

Mr. Simani did not know the make of the aircraft, and the air force and the defence headquarters declined comment. A Nairobi newspaper identified it as a British-made Westland King.

The Somali National Alliance, a coalition of clans supporting one of the country's chief warlords, General Mohammad

Farrah Aidede, said the helicopter was forced down while attacking Bardera.

Gen. Aidede has used Bardera as a regional headquarters. The national alliance said in a statement the Kenya air force bombed Bardera Thursday in an attempt to rescue the crew and the helicopter, causing "lots of damage and deaths."

Mr. Simani denied the charges. Mark Radford, a spokesman for Save the Children Fund-U.K., said its relief workers in Bardera had not reported the alleged bombing in their daily radio contacts with the Nairobi office.

"It is something they would tell us," Mr. Radford said.

The Somali National Alliance has frequently accused Kenya of supporting factions loyal to dictator Mohammad Siad Barre, ousted in January 1991.

Mr. Siad Barre, who ruled Somalia for 21 years, fled to Kenya in April and stayed for about a month before being granted political asylum in Nigeria.

Northeastern Kenya is inhabited by ethnic Somalis, who are known to side with their respective clans in Somalia.

Kabul frees former vice-president

KABUL (AP) — The Islamic government said Sunday it had released General Mohammad Rafei, a vice-president in the former communist regime arrested last week for trying to sneak out of the country.

Gen. Rafei was detained Monday at Kabul airport by security forces who stopped him from leaving on a flight to India, Defence Ministry spokesman Yunus Qamuni said.

But Mr. Qamuni said Gen. Rafei was arrested for using a fake passport and not for crimes from the 14-year civil war between the former communist government and the rebels.

Mr. Qamuni said the government that replaced communist rule in April had no evidence that Gen. Rafei was a war criminal so nothing could stop him from leaving Afghanistan as long as he has a valid passport.

With the exception of ousted President Najibullah, all former communist officials have been granted general amnesty as long as they do not actively oppose Afghanistan's new Islamic government.

Gen. Rafei was an architect of the April 1978 coup that installed the communist government and a close associate of Mr. Najibullah. When the regime collapsed, he sided with renegade guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar in his unsuccessful bid to seize the capital.

Mr. Najibullah remains at a U.N. compound in Kabul, where he took refuge in April. The new government wants the United Nations to hand over Mr. Najibullah to stand trial for his role in the civil war, which claimed more than two million lives.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 An Claire de la Lune
18:10 Le Monde Sous Marine
18:30 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
21:30 Close to Home
21:45 Close to the Dogs
22:00 News in English
22:30 Code and Cypher

PRAYER TIMES

05:04 Fajr
06:22 Sunrise (Surat) Doha
12:27 Dhuhr
15:53 Asr
18:23 Maghreb
19:59 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatish, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632765
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 67440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzianista Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

625411
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 62543
Anglican Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Anglican Orthodox Church Tel. 772661
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assyrian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675991

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be mild during the day, cold at night and winds will be northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. Temp.
Amman 14 / 25
Aqaba 19 / 32
Dahyat 12 / 26
Jordan Valley 17 / 31

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 34, Aqaba 34. Humidity readings: Amman 34 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Farouq Noor 786680
Dr. Zein Zaghoul 638591
Dr. Adnan Zaghoul 88148
Dr. Abdul Wahab Aweid 745078
Firas pharmacy 651912
Fardous pharmacy 778336
Al Azema pharmacy 657033
Nawroth pharmacy 626372
Al Salem pharmacy 636750
Yasoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660
Nawroth pharmacy 626372
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Rawhan Al Sand 273877
Al Shamsi pharmacy (778252)

ZARQA:
Dr. Zaid Hawatneh 993267
Rami pharmacy 955119

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence: Immediate
Rescue 63041
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 821228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843482
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 636821
Hotel Complaints 603800
Price Complaints 651176
Water and Sewerage 874467
Complaints 874467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010238
Central Amman Telephone 62101
Abdullah Telephone Regalia 661101
Jordan Television 775111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680300
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information

Queen Alia Int. Airport: 08-53200, 08-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husaid Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 64251/6
Abdullah Maternity, J. Amn 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malha, J. Amman 650148
Palestine, Shamsi 664171/4
Shamsi Hospital 659131
University Hospital 848465
Al-Munther Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 665123/7
Al-Ash, Abdali 664168
Italian, Al-Mahjara 771013/3
Al-Bakr, J. Askafieh 775111/26
Army, Marha 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 6224030
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)902960
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)987322
Al-Hamra Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:
Palace Street Hospital (02)225355
Great Catholic Hospital (02)227225
Ibn Al-Nadim Hospital (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:15 Sudan (RJ)
10:00 Jeddah (RJ)
10:15 Riyadh (RJ)
10:30 Damascus (RJ)
10:30 Doha, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:00 New Delhi (RJ)
11:05 Beirut (RJ)
11:40 Cairo (RJ)
12:00 Baghdad, Doha (RJ)
12:30 Khartoum (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:30 Aden (AL)
08:45 Doha (RJ)
11:15 Khartoum (SU)
12:05 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Doha (GP)
12:30 Rome, Beirut (AZ)
12:30 Paris, Damascus (AF)
20:30 Cairo (MS)

Queen to visit southern village

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday will visit the village of Oreira in Maan governorate to patronise the distribution of land deeds to beneficiaries in that community as part of Noor Al Hussein Foundation's (NHIF) Quality of Life Project in that area. The Queen will also inspect a number of income generating schemes as well as social and educational service facilities in the village.

Sixty families are expected to benefit from the plots of land, which were allocated according to the residential zoning plan drafted by the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA). Families benefitting from this scheme will be able to use the JVA-owned plots (each totalling 1.5 dunams in area) to build houses, olive gardens and raise domesticated animals, all to improve the quality of their living standards.

The Quality of Life Project, launched last year in Oreira, has led to the establishment of a Local Village Development Council (VDC) from local community leaders to manage the Project's activities in the village after receiving some training in community leadership. In line with NHIF's intersectoral cooperation approach to develop-



Queen Noor of Jordan, patronising the distribution of land deeds to beneficiaries in the village of Oreira in Maan governorate.

ment, a Technical support committee has also been set up, with members from different ministries to offer technical advice and services to the project.

Other programmes associated with the Quality of Life Project in Oreira include a mother and child club, a nutrition programme and a home-gardens scheme. The mother and child club provides a venue for village women to acquire skills enabling them to produce marketable products and increase their families' income. Educational activities are held at the club to increase women

awareness of vital community issues and motivate them to participate positively in the preservation and improvement of their family health and environment.

The nutrition programme seeks to improve nutrition among village residents through self-reliance. This objective is realised by supplying families with goats to raise. The Local VDC will receive newly-born female calves for redistribution to other families in the village. Seven families have so far been incorporated into the goat raising project. Another similar nutrition scheme includes helping local families raise hens. Fifteen families are benefiting from this project as each family is given 10 hens to raise.

Local village residents are also encouraged to utilise their home gardens to increase vegetable and fruit production. The project provides beneficiaries with seeds and olive saplings in addition to pesticides and spray equipment.

The village has a population of 2000 residents, living in hard economic conditions and depending on farming and sheep raising for living. Noor Al Hussein's Quality of Life Project is carried out jointly with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation.

Farmers blame ministry for fruit damage

DEIR ABI SAEED (Petra) — A bid on the part of the Ministry of Agriculture to fight woodworm harming pomegranate trees in the Wadi Zafrah area seems to have backfired, drastically reducing instead of increasing production of the fruit.

A number of local farmers growing the pomegranates on a 500 dunam land said that ministry teams visited the Koura district near here and sprayed pesticides in order to eliminate the woodworm that has damaged the crop fruit, but only 15 days after the spraying campaign, which occurred last July, the woodworm danger increased and the fruits stopped ripening. The trees have also withered.

The farmers said they estimate their losses at JD 250,000 and that the spraying of the fruit trees caused the farmlands to yield fruit that sold for JD 125 per dunam, down from JD 750 in previous years.

The farmers said they have complained again to the Ministry of Agriculture, which set up a committee to examine the problem.

Ministry officials were quoted as saying that the delay in spraying the trees was the main cause for the loss of the fruit this year. They said also that the trees were badly affected by the severe winter weather of last year, which also caused severe damages to the roads and canals.

Cypriot team to hold exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — A Cypriot trade team arrived in Amman Saturday evening for talks with Jordanian businessmen and government officials aimed at promoting trade links between Jordan and Cyprus.

During the three-day visit, the team members are expected to meet with Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour and Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmah for talks on the prospects for promoting a tourism relations between the two countries.

The team will also hold an exhibition of Cypriot products at the Amman Chamber of Commerce where talks will be held with Jordanian merchants and businessmen.

The Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce has sent invitations to Jordanian businessmen and merchants to meet with the Cypriot team Monday through Wednesday to conclude trade agreements.

Taps will go dry for customers who don't pay bills

By Elna Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) is launching a campaign throughout the country to collect JD 12 million in water charges owed to it by subscribers, according to WAJ Director Mu'taz Bilbeisi.

Mr. Bilbeisi told the Jordan Times that the JD 12 million are due on government and private institutions and individual subscribers around the country. He said these subscribers will be asked to settle their dues or risk having water supplies disrupted.

"We are starting a campaign through the media and through the WAJ employees who go around to read the meters to spread the word that WAJ now means business," said Mr. Bilbeisi.

"We preferred to avoid such measure at the peak of the summer time when water consump-

tion was at its highest and due to the presence in the country of vacationers from the Gulf and other areas, he said.

He said the WAJ will cut off supplies to homes, companies, departments and others who fail to pay their dues.

Asked about the period for which WAJ was demanding subscribers to pay, he said that those who failed to pay their bills in the past years up to the middle of 1992 will be affected if they do not pay by Oct. 7.

Mr. Bilbeisi said the WAJ has set up special committees to deal with the situation and to supervise the campaign.

"We need the JD 12 million and much more in order to honour our WAJ obligations and carry out badly needed projects like replacement of old and worn-out water networks in Amman and other areas," Mr. Bilbeisi said. The last time WAJ embarked

on a campaign to collect dues was at the end of 1990, when it announced that it was collecting JD 1.7 million that subscribers failed to pay on time.

Recently WAJ announced that the Council of Ministers had approved a JD 20 million loan for the authority to be obtained from the Social Security Corporation (SSC) to carry out repair or replacement of the water networks in the Amman area alone.

At the same time, Mr. Bilbeisi stressed that the water distribution programme was continuing to ensure that water supplies would reach all districts and parts of the country.

In an interview with the Jordan Times last July, Mr. Bilbeisi warned that the water shortage crisis in Jordan would assume larger proportions by the year 2000, when the country will have tapped all its available resources without meeting the needs of its



Mu'taz Bilbeisi

growing population.

Mr. Bilbeisi met Sunday with the collectors of dues for WAJ, instructing them on their task during the coming campaign. He issued an appeal to the public to cooperate with the collectors and to pay their dues to WAJ to enable it to pursue and improve services it offers to the public.

Yemeni national in good health after 24-hour surgery

AMMAN (J.T.) — In one of the longest surgical operations ever conducted in the Kingdom, a team of Jordanian neurosurgeons and anaesthesiologists working at Al Bashir government hospital in Amman has just succeeded in removing a meningioma from the brain of a Yemeni national whose condition was described Sunday as good.

Dr. Makram Enshehwar, hospital director, told the Jordan Times that the Yemeni man, 28-year-old Mohammad Saleh, was in good condition following 24-and-a-half-hour operation conducted by a team led by Surgeon Dr. Jassar Attieh.

Except for Dr. Attieh, the rest of the team of ours worked in shifts around the clock in order to ensure the success of the operation, said Dr. Enshehwar.

Dr. Enshehwar told the Jordan Times that the patient could be discharged in a week.

The surgeon said that the patient, who underwent the operation Thursday, was fully conscious and in good condition as the benign meningioma was safely and completely removed, leaving no complications whatsoever.

During the operation, the patient needed great amounts of blood which was promptly supplied by the near-by blood bank, according to the once anaesthesiologist Dr. Mujahed Rimawi.

Dr. Enshehwar said that the operation was the first of its type to be conducted in the country. Commenting on the result of the operation, Jordan Medical Association President Ishaq Marqat said that the achievement was "a source of pride for Jordan and the Arab Nation."

Arab labour unions end meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GFJTU) has participated in a pan-Arab symposium on union rights and freedoms, which has recently been held in Tunis.

Vice President of GFJTU, Jamal Tawil, who represented Jordan in the meetings, said in an arrival statement that the symposium stressed the need to safeguard the unity of labour movement and to provide support for the International Federation of Arab Labour Unions.

The symposium also called for enacting legislation on collective bargaining, and urged Arab governments to endorse Arab and international labour agreements.

It also called on the federation to issue a comparative study on the legal status of Arab trade unions.

Mr. Tawil also said that the symposium called on international and Arab labour organisations to hold training courses on union rights and freedoms.

The symposium condemned the Israeli oppressive measures against Arab trade unions in the occupied territories and called on the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to expose the Israeli violations of public freedoms and union rights.

Taking part in the symposium were representatives from the Arab Labour Organisation, the Tunisian Labour Federation, in addition to labour delegations from Jordan, Egypt, Tunis, Algeria, Morocco, Iraq, Sudan, Palestine, Areria, Mauritania, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition entitled "A Dialogue in Expression" — works on paper by Naz Ibrahim, Nabila Elimi and Dodi Taban at the National Gallery, Jabal Lawelbeh Park.

★ Art exhibition entitled "Ensigns" by Jordanian architect Murad Bushana at the British Council.

★ Art exhibition by Turkish artist Sabahat at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of sculpture and enamel on copper by Moustafa Ali and Shereen Malla at Baladna Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Jordanian artist Ahmad Nawash at Alfa Art Gallery.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Acting ministers named

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Sunday appointing Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouran Hindawi as acting Foreign Minister, Industry and Trade Minister Abdullah Ensour as Planning Minister, Post and Telecommunication Minister Jamal Sarraf as acting Finance Minister, and Public Works and Housing Minister Said Hayel Srour as Minister of Energy during the absence of the respective ministers on assignments outside the country.

Prime minister visits Al Amal centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday visited Al Amal Cancer Centre project, which is expected to be completed on Nov. 14, 1993. Sharif Zeid, who also heads the national team for the construction of the centre, was briefed on progress of work at the project by Abdullah Al Khatib, president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies. Sharif Zeid praised the good efforts made to complete the project, which will benefit needy people who cannot afford the costs of treatment from cancer.

Forum on children's rights opens today

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, a four-day forum on children's rights will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) Monday. The event, organised by Amnesty International's (AI) groups in Jordan aims at discussing children's rights with a view to promoting them. A total of 150 children aged 12-16 years will take part in this conference, which will debate children's cultural, educational health, environmental, economic, social, political and civil rights. Children will steer the discussions of the symposium, make the recommendations and work out the final communiqué.

Foreign-licensed trucks banned

AMMAN (Petra) — Only Jordanian trucks will be allowed to transport goods inside Jordan, according to a decision by Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Suheimat. A memorandum sent by Mr. Suheimat to Interior Minister Jawdat Al Shoubi said that non-Jordanian trucks will be banned from operating inside the Kingdom's districts and governorates. The memorandum said that foreign trucks will be allowed to transport goods from the port city of Aqaba to their countries of origin.

Princess Haya distributes hearing aids to children

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Al Hussein, the honorary president of Queen Alia Foundation for Hearing and Speech Sunday distributed at Madaba Government hospital hearing aids to children in need of these devices.

The hearing aids were offered to the children free of charge on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's recovery from the operation he underwent last month and his safe return home last Thursday.

Princess Haya commended the role of the foundation and lauded its efforts in helping children with hearing problems.

Princess Haya said she was happy for helping children overcome their disabilities.

The Princess said the foundation offers its services to children

whose families are not included in the health insurance systems of the Ministry of Health, the armed forces or the Ministry of Social Development.

She called on the concerned authorities at the ministries of Health and Social Development and the armed forces to facilitate procedures related to examining children with hearing problems and offering them hearing aids so as to reduce pressure on the foundation.

Princess Haya pointed out that the foundation will organise hearing examination surveys in the northern and central parts of Jordan, now that it has finished the process in the southern parts of the Kingdom.

The foundation started conducting the free-of-charge hearing tests in south Jordan in the beginning of 1990.

Jordan, Lebanon begin trade talks on Monday

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Lebanon will open fresh talks in Amman on Monday on means of promoting their bilateral economic and trade relations.

A statement said here Sunday that the talks will be conducted through the Joint-Jordanian-Lebanese Economic and Trade Committee, which groups agricultural experts and economists.

The talks, which are a follow-up to those conducted by the same committee last July in Amman, will last for three days and will discuss topics related to the types of commodities exchanged

between two sides.

The statement said that the committee hopes to reach a new trade agreement between Jordan and Lebanon, upgrading the one which was signed in 1965. According to the statement, the committee last July discussed agricultural exchanges and agreed on the types of agricultural and other products which are to be bartered by the two countries.

The statement said that a list of agricultural products, to be exchanged between Lebanon and Jordan, will be revised on an annual basis.

Suheimat, French delegation discuss economic ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — A French delegation of businessmen and economists now on a visit to Jordan in the course of a campaign to promote Jordanian-French trade relations had meetings Sunday with deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport Ali Suheimat to review Jordanian-French economic and trade ties.

The team's head expressed hope that the visit and the current campaign would further bolster contacts between businessmen from the two countries and help develop trade exchange.

In reviewing Jordan's present economic situation, Mr. Suheimat referred to the economic difficulties facing the Kingdom as a direct result of the Gulf crisis and its negative impacts on Jordan's national economy and trade with other countries.

Jordan was the third worst affected country from the war after Kuwait and Iraq and had to face the return of hundreds of thousands of Jordanian expatriates from the Gulf and Kuwait, he said.

Mr. Suheimat welcomed any bids on the part of French businessmen to launch joint ventures with Jordanian businessmen saying that Jordan offers a very good investment climate and possesses highly trained workers.

Jordan, the minister added, was looking forward to further economic and trade links with France and other European countries.

The visiting French team also met with Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour for similar discussions.

Rabin hesitant to drop PLO ban

(Continued from page 1)

But the low-level talks, which drew repeated Israeli objections, were broken off in 1990 after an attempted raid on the Israeli coast by guerrillas of a minor PLO faction.

Israel banned contact between its citizens and the PLO in 1986, saying meetings with a group it considers a "terrorist" organisation intent on destroying the Jewish state represented a security threat.

Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan twice went to prison for meeting PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat at the PLO headquarters in Tunis.


The controversial jailing of Mr. Nathan, compounded by the fact that Mr. Arafat is backing the current Israeli-Palestinian peace

talks, fuelled calls for repeal of the ban.

Two earlier this month Mr. Rabin set the proposed legislation to ministerial committees for consideration in what was thought an effort to sidetrack the change.

In addition to encouraging new U.S.-PLO talks, newspapers have speculated that Mr. Rabin fears his government could face pressure to enter talks with the PLO for the first time since the group's founding in 1964.

"There is no change in the present government's stance that there will be no contacts with the PLO as an organisation and negotiations must be conducted with residents of the (occupied) territories in the framework of the existing delegation," Mr. Rabin told Maariv.




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Rightful role

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL's (AI) description of Jordan as capable of playing the role of regional leader in the ongoing efforts to promote and protect human rights is a living testimony to the extent that the country has gone to observe and respect human rights. Ian Martin, the secretary general of AI, qualified the Kingdom for this prestigious role at the conclusion of his talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Thaqan Al Hindawi on Saturday. He based his verdict on the proposition that the country's educational programmes serve as "model in educational programmes on human rights in the Middle East." The head of AI could have gone further by taking note of the several key human rights instruments that the country had ratified, especially the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention Against Torture and other Inhuman or Degrading Treatment. Granted that becoming a state party to human rights treaties does not in itself offer sufficient evidence on the human rights record of any country. Many governments that have signed and ratified almost every international human rights conventions adopted by the international community are still among the prime violators of basic human rights. In the case of Jordan, however, the country's legal obligations have been matched by deeds even though there is a lot more that needs to be accomplished in this field. The reintroduction of multi-party democracy is the best proof that Jordan has irrevocably committed itself to operational democracy and human rights. Even more relevant is the fact that His Majesty King Hussein personally is committed to the cause of human rights and has done a great deal to promote it in the Kingdom. True: there might still be marginal pockets of human rights violations but they are fast on the way out. The simple fact remains that no government alone can establish a perfect human rights record. This ambitious goal calls for the creation of a culture for human rights in which the government as well as people must play their respective complementary roles. That is why AI attached considerable importance to Jordan's educational programmes in human rights and paid special tribute to the country's achievements in it. The bottom line in the human rights endeavours is the need to establish harmony between individual rights on the one hand and collective rights on the other hand. It must be also predicated on democratically enacted laws that embody sufficient safeguards for fundamental human rights. This much Jordan has attempted to do and will continue to do in order to function as a regional model for the promotion and protection of human rights.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SAWT AL SHAAB daily Sunday expressed concern over increasing trends at the Middle East negotiations to arrive at an agreement similar to the Camp David Accord, concluded between Israel and Egypt. Palestinian and other Arab circles are fearing that a Syrian-Israeli separate deal might be in the offing at a time when talks between the other Arab parties and Israel have achieved nothing following six rounds of discussions, noted the daily. Should Israel succeed in concluding a separate deal with Israel or any other party involved in the peace process it would succeed in disrupting Arab ranks and totally devastate any idea of reestablishing solidarity among countries around Israel, the paper warned. It said that a separate peace treaty between Syria and Israel would not only weaken the Arab negotiating position but would also pave the ground for a total loss of Arab rights in the occupied Arab lands. The paper said that the Arab parties to the Washington parity should revise their position and study the outcome of the first six rounds of talks with a view to avoiding any trend towards allowing any party to conclude a deal separate from the others, otherwise nothing can stand in the way of future inter-Arab divisions. The paper said that any separate deal between Israel and Syria is bound to take Damascus out of the Arab-Israeli conflict and would open the way for Israel to liquidate the Palestine question and deny all the rights of the Palestinian people. The paper said that the whole Middle East peace process was based on the concept of implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily advocated the cause of the Jordanian artists, including singers, and actors, who he said should receive greater government support and assistance to help promote their work and their activities at the Jordanian and pan-Arab levels. Mohammad Kawash noted that the Jordanian singers and actors put up a distinguished performance in the course of public rejoicings over the King's safe return to Jordan, and their appearance together on television reminded the public of their presence and of their problems and their continued demand that the government come to their help. The writer said that the Jordanian artists have sustained great losses as a result of the Gulf war, which halted all Gulf states contracts with them, and Jordanian artistic production in general. He said that the government realises too well the needs of these artists and their complaints and it alone can come to their help and ensure a decent living for their families. The writer said that the government could for instance offer the artists a long-term soft loan to produce television programmes which can be marketed in the Arab World or stored for a more opportune time for marketing, pending improvement in Arab-Arab relations. The government, the writer demanded, ought to show some concern to the unemployment among the artists, at least dealing with their problem on equal footing with other sectors in Jordan.

Weekly Political Pulse

Resounding affirmation of loyalty and love

SURE ENOUGH the kind of tumultuous welcome extended to His Majesty King Hussein upon his return Thursday exceeded everybody's wildest imagination, whether inside or outside the Kingdom. To have seen one unstoppable wave of joyous and cheering crowd after another swarming the King's car, literally like bees, and forcing it ever so often to a standstill in their effort to get a glimpse of His Majesty must have caught at least some observers by a big surprise.

All the country was anticipating an unprecedented homecoming for the Monarch, but the crowds that thronged in every street and alley in Amman were simply too much out of the ordinary, and too much to handle. The soldiers that protected the King's motorcade were repeatedly forced to use a limited measure of force to keep the people from coming too close to the King and Crown Prince Hassan, who was driving.

After Thursday's jubilation, it is time to take stock of the events of that day, rightfully proclaimed a national holiday.

First, one may wish to picture what His Majesty might have been thinking of as his plane was circling the airspace of the capital to get a bird's view of the people waiting since the early hours of the day to see him and pass on to him some symbolic gestures of their love, affection and loyalty. What did the King think as he glimpsed nearly a million of his subjects filling the streets assigned for his motorcade, as well as every vacant place in between? No matter how much he was moved by the aerial sight of the huge masses of people crowding the thoroughfares of the city, it could not have matched his emotions as his car tried in vain to keep moving at a snail's pace through the streets of the capital. There were moments when his car was completely smothered by celebrating crowds and bodyguards, causing many spectators to worry about the King and Crown Prince Hassan. In that mild, His Majesty must have felt overwhelmed by his people's affection and love. He probably has felt vindicated in every policy feature of his reign. The Monarch may also have sensed that he has a stronger than ever mandate from the public to pursue his mission for the country and its region. Most touching to him may have been the feeling that the whole country is more solidly united behind him now than at any other time before. Most probably, therefore, the King's first night in town was spent, appraising and digesting the implications of the events of his homecoming for him and his people.

As for the people of Jordan, it would still take some more time to take stock of the impact on them of the King's return to the country, safe and sound. At this early stage, however, the King can be perceived as having effectively ended their trauma about his illness. For in spite of piloting a long flight, from Vienna to

Amman, the King looked very healthy and radiant with life. His familiar warm smile never seemed to leave his face even during the long ordeal of embracing and handshaking hundreds and hundreds of official well-wishers. That was additional reassurance that all is well and fine with His Majesty, even though the majority of the people had wished that the recuperating King could have been spared such protocol hardships. There was, therefore, a tremendous sense of relief accompanying the landing of His Majesty's plane and his emergence from it looking fit and in the best of health. There was also a clear sense of happiness and joy in the hearts of the people because they obviously could never bear the thought of him sick and away from his Kingdom for so long.

Why all this well-demonstrated and documented show of affection and endless love of Jordanians towards King Hussein? Is it his courage, the proof of which abounds in the annals of the country and region? Remember King Hussein's accession to the Throne at the tender age of 18, in the almost immediate aftermath of the trauma of seeing with his own eyes the assassination of his late and beloved grandfather King Abdullah? Those were the days when the country was barely standing on its feet and the ambitious plans for its stabilisation and consolidation had just been launched by King Hussein's grandfather. Those were also the historical circumstances when the Palestinian conflict was reaching its zenith, in the aftermath of the establishment of Israel on the ashes of the Palestinian dreams for statehood. In addition those were the times when the Middle East was still in a state of flux with the parts of the region'sigsaw puzzle not securely in place. More ominously, those were the days, also, of the never-ending intrigues and conspiracies against the Hashemite Kingdom.

Then came the Arabisation of the Jordanian Army, the backbone of the country ever since the Arab Revolt was launched by Sharif Hussein, at the beginning of the twentieth century. The demonstration of the King's courage continued throughout that era that was often characterised by conspiracies to wage military coups against the established order in the country. The King's courage and unfaltering conviction in the continuing mission of the Arab Revolution were singularly the most critical factors that thwarted those early attempts on the sanity and stability of the country. The record of King Hussein in this view persisted unabated throughout the sixties, seventies, eighties and nineties.

The strength of the King's convictions were always associated with his wisdom and statesmanship as far back as one can remember. One particular highlight of this record was the first ever serious contemporary effort to kick off Arab unity when Amman and Baghdad declared their federation back in 1958.

That Arab dream was brutally terminated by a bloody coup against the Hashemite dynasty in Iraq which never receded again. Ever since those violent times, the Kingdom had been sailing in heavy seas but was always salvaged by a constant administration of statesmanship and courage. Naturally, not every national decision came to positive fruition, and there were times when public opinion forced on the country one course of action or another that in retrospect proved disastrous. But that is the nature of state-building, where there will always be ups and downs. In the case of Jordan, the down times were simply anomalies, scarce and far between.

Still, if one must find a singular explanation for the people's unshaken loyalty to their King, it is his compassion that stands out as a unique feature unmatched anywhere else in the world.

This special King Hussein trademark could be viewed as not only the hallmark of his reign, but also the source of his power and strength. The entire world, including of course the Jordanian people, have duly taken note of King Hussein's unique treatment of even his worst enemies, including those who conspired against his life and regime. Many such people were in due course reintegrated into the economic and political life of the country. Many of them were even assigned to the highest positions in government. Fortunately, most such rehabilitated persons then were to become among the most ardent supporters of the Hashemite rule. The King's compassion turned also elsewhere, touching the daily lives of many aggrieved or needy Jordanians. In the process, King Hussein became better known as the Monarch that does not know the word "no". That feature of his reign remains the same till this day. His compassion and respect for human rights was amply demonstrated time and again, and as far back as the early years of his rule. When, for example, it came to the King's knowledge, in the late fifties, that force was being administered against suspects in a national conspiracy case that was being investigated at the time, the young King summoned the then chief of Army Intelligence and told him: "General, I hear that some of your men are using force against the suspects. I want an immediate end to such practices." This little anecdote is big in its message. It gives a vivid picture of where the King personally stood on fundamental human rights starting with the early years of his reign. The King's compassionate record on and strong conviction in basic human rights continued throughout his leadership of the Kingdom and continue to motivate and guide his rule.

These are some of the reasons why the people turned out en masse Thursday to greet their King and shower him with their love, affection and loyalty. I am sure there are plenty more explanations that are also properly recorded in history.

Hussein — where royalty and majesty coincide

By Izzat R. Dajani

ACCORDING TO Webster's new world dictionary, royalty is described as "the rank or power of a king," whereas majesty is "grandeur." It is in King Hussein that these two converge, and one is simply an extension of the other.

Writing about the Monarch is no easy task as it is hard to simply yield to emotion or act on an emotional conviction. It probably is a thin line that divides futile superlative praise from an explicitly drawn profile of admiration and respect to a leader. This task is made harder still as Arab rulers are raised to superordinate levels by writers and commentators through varied influences where fear is amenable to actions of mind and heart alike.

However, it is obvious that King Hussein is a different breed, and writing about him brings to mind what Montaigne has stated: "Since mutual understanding is brought about solely by way of words, he who breaks his word betrays human society. It is the only instrument by means of which our wills and thoughts communicate, it is the interpreter of our soul."

His Majesty has genuine beliefs. His personality is a substantial condition of his success. He speaks the truth to his subjects as he does not believe in slogans as substitute for policy or mask for lack of it. Churchill said that facts are better than dreams. Yet, King Hussein is full of dreams with

the capacity to realise them. He dreams of the stability of Jordan in a situation of highly complex geopolitics; the relative prosperity of his people with scarce resources; democracy and liberal policies when they are feared by friends before foes; humanity and justice for all with good human-rights records; and providing a human force of highly skilled people to aid its own country and other wealthy but rather underdeveloped Arab World countries. King Hussein best exemplified Barbara Ward Jackson's words when she wrote: "The environment of the twentieth century is designed for the men who dare greatly and dream greatly and

let their work catch up with their dreams."

Last week, a diplomat asked me a not-so-naïve question: "What do you think and how do you feel about all these welcoming signs and slogans for His Majesty prior to his arrival back to the country?" It was very reassuring to one's conscience to be able to reply that it was done through pure love of the King. We may need to remember in this context that a condition of honesty is the practice of rationality. An important trait of King Hussein's rule and materialised dream is to allow the minds in our society to be open and in touch with each other for the production and exchange of

thought. This is more than absent in most if not all parts of the Arab World!

King Hussein's conception of his office is both clear and high. He is known for his moderation in policy, manner and character. He carries the qualitative pleasure of dealing with people. He has "constant" fascination with work with ideas, excitement of sharing in the action and challenging the problems important to the world in general and his country is particular.

May I add a quote by Mr. Achad Haam in conclusion: "I live for the perpetuation and happiness of the community of which I am a member. When the individual thus values the

community as his own life and strives after its happiness as though it were his individual well-being, he finds satisfaction and no longer feels so keenly the bitterness of his individual existence, because he sees the end for which he lives and suffers." King Hussein certainly added more perspectives to majesty as simply "grandeur." It is an imaginative dream with results through an avenue of hard work but fair and humane. He gave us new lessons in majesty.

The writer is honorary consul of the Seychelles in Jordan. He contributed the article to the Jordan Times.

Israel banking on reform, peace to lift economy

By Robert Manoney
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Inflation is down. Exports and share prices are up. Tourist hotels are full — but so are soup kitchens for jobless Russian immigrants.

If the switch to a Labour government three months ago has so far been good for the Israeli economy, lines of unemployed newcomers are a constant cloud on the horizon.

The queues are likely to get longer in the short term if Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his Finance Minister Abraham Shohat push through the 1993 budget and a reform package unveiled this month.

The reforms commit Labour to dismantle state enterprises, which it helped set up, and to liberalise capital markets and foreign exchange controls.

It would be the most ambitious shift to free market policies in

Israel history — partly at the urging of the United States, which pumps \$3 billion a year into Israel, more than 40 per cent of its total foreign aid budget.

"There are quite a lot of reforms that we want to introduce ... to open the economy and take off as far as possible some of the monopolies," Mr. Shohat told Reuters in an interview.

"It's not only the Americans who are keen. We ourselves want to privatise," he said.

Israeli officials acknowledge that many state-owned companies are in a mess. Even once-thriving arms industries are hemorrhaging cash and face massive lay-offs.

Besides the distortions created by dependence on American largesse, an inheritance of East European Labourite thinking and a huge defence expenditure, the economy is also plagued by a chronic lack of private-sector capital investment — hith-

domestic and foreign.

One problem is that non-Israeli Jews, while keen to donate to Israeli causes or buy Israeli real estate, rarely invest in Israeli factories.

But Mr. Shohat believes the private sector will be the engine of growth, fuelled by \$10 billion which Israel will borrow with the help of U.S. government guarantees that were refused to Labour's right-wing predecessor, Likud.

"We are not going to take this money and change it into shekels and put it in the budget ... We shall increase the investment in the economy by the private sector by providing ... foreign currency for them to buy machines and equipment."

"I believe there's a big chance we will increase investment 20 per cent each year, and we know that if we want to absorb new immigrants Gross National Product (GNP) has to increase be-

tween five to seven per cent," Mr. Shohat said.

"We have a feeling something changed. I believe it is also because of the changing political situation, that people believe that the policy of this government is a change and maybe there is a chance that we are going to reach a certain kind of agreement with the Palestinians and the Arab countries. "These changes (business) people to be more interested in Israel," he said.

Mr. Shohat predicted Gross Domestic Product growth of five to six per cent for 1992, the first real per capita growth in two years.

It would not rise above that level next year because Labour has already started to slash housing construction.

Home-building under Likud, including controversial Jewish settlements on Arab land, helped check unemployment but immig-

rants, fearing joblessness, did not come in the large numbers expected and Labour inherited 40,000 unemployed homes.

Unemployment currently averages 11 per cent and runs up to 50 per cent among immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Shohat said inflation would stabilise this year around 10 per cent and might dip a further percentage point next year.

Exports, which shrank last year because of the Gulf war, could grow about nine per cent this year, helped by a tourism boom, he said.

Many Israeli economists and

Western diplomats share Mr. Shohat's upbeat assessment for this year, but they believe GDP and export growth will tail off in 1993.

The cabinet has approved Mr. Shohat's draft 1993 budget which is likely to get through parliament without significant changes at the end of the year.

"But it is still too early to say whether they are going to pull off the reforms," said a senior Western diplomat.

"There will be pressure from within to resist painful changes and then there is always politics. If the peace process squeezes the economy could catch cold."

LETTERS

Beloved brother, Hamdulillah a salameh

To the Editor:

Our beloved brother and King, our greetings to you from people like me who are now part of the Jordanian family but of different origins (by birth).

You, as a loving, affectionate, humane person, have shown people like us that we belong here, where our children do. That this Hashemite Kingdom, is our present and our future.

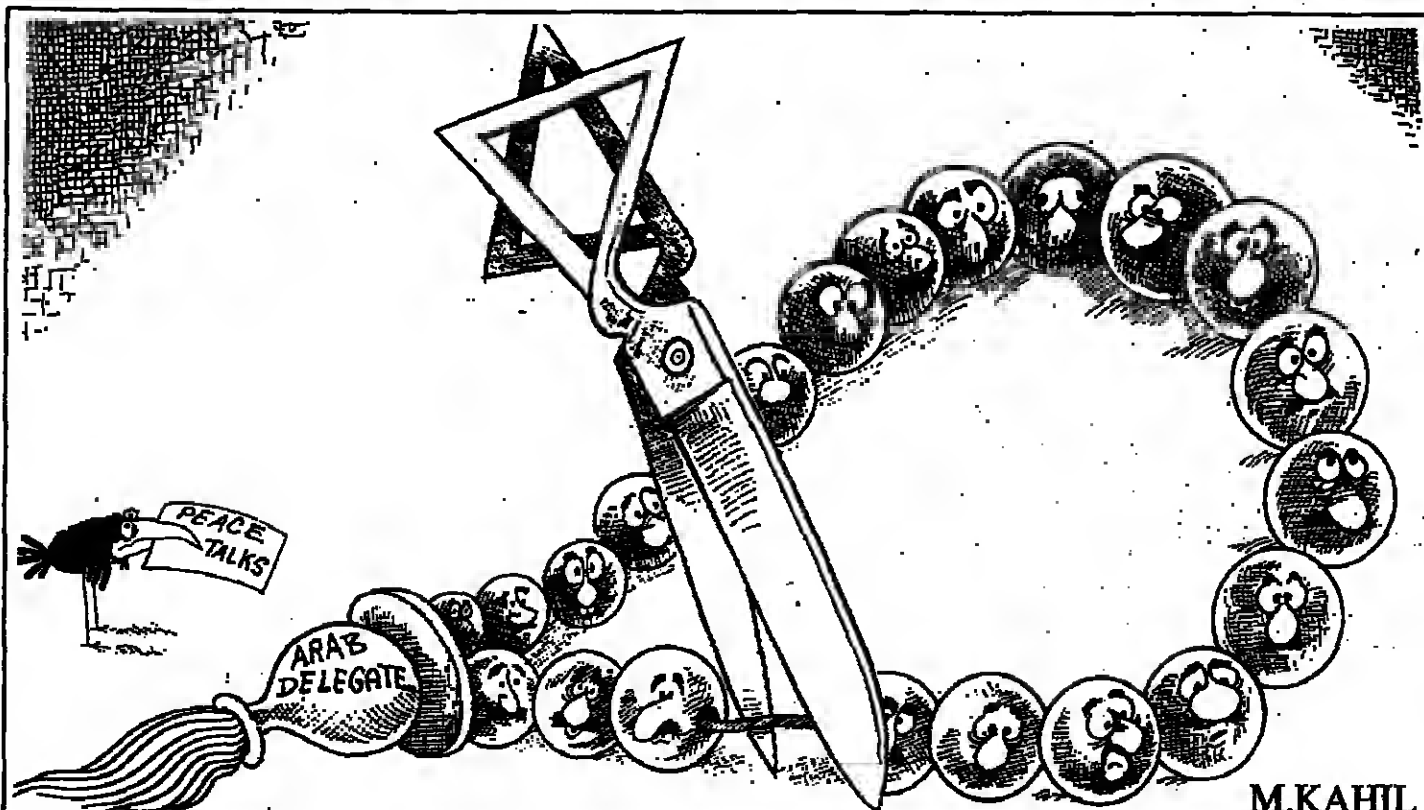
Aba Abdullah, you have fulfilled and you keep fulfilling our long-desired dreams of a stable Jordan for our children and for future generations.

May our God bless you, and keep you safe, under His loving mighty wings, and protect you from all perils and dangers of this life!

We, all Jordanians, (whatever nationality of birth and walks of life), assure you sincerely, dear brother, that we stand behind you with heart, soul, body and mind, always.

Dr. Barbara Burgan,
P.O. Box 2343,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



Crown Prince hosts welcome lunch

(Continued from page 1)

street processions were organized and local troupes presented performances in open air.

In Zarqa Governorate, celebrations were organized by the Christian community. Father Khalil Jasar, head of the local community, delivered a speech. Schoolchildren pre-

Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

achieve progress in other tracks," he said, "and such progress does not mean that any party would sign a unilateral peace treaty."

In public statements, Syrian leaders have rejected entering any peace accord with Israel outside a comprehensive Arab-Israeli agreement involving all Arab sides.

The Palestinian and Israeli sides have exchanged several proposals and counter-proposals since the peace talks started a year ago, but these could be pursued only if the "basic differences in approach are resolved," Mr. Arouni said.

He added that the issue of Palestinian Interim Self-Government Arrangement (ISGA) were not discussed "in detail" during the sixth round, but the Palestinian side insisted on legislative powers for a committee elected from among the Palestinians living in the occupied territories. "The Israelis have named it Palestinian 'administrative council,' but we insist on legislative powers for the body, regardless of what anyone would like to call it."

The Israeli delegation has suggested setting up a "joint committee" to study the possible "jurisdiction" of the interim authority, Mr. Arouni explained and the Palestinian side is studying the proposal without abandoning its objectives of electing a "legislative" authority in the occupied territories.

According to delegate Abdullah, the Palestinians "have not heard from Israel's left-leaning government anything different from its right-wing predecessor."

"The Israelis deal with the Palestinians 'as a people without a national identity and they only offered us authority over municipal elections,' he said.

"We have rejected that and insisted on an elected Palestinian body with full authority over the land, natural resources and people."

But Israel has agreed to a Palestinian request to establish a panel to study human rights violations in the occupied territories.

The Palestinian objective is to have the panel "examine the military orders (issued by the occupation authorities) and the various other regulations in the occupied territories with a view to changing them or cancelling them altogether," Mr. Arouni said.

He said it would "more realistic" to expect the Palestinian interim governing authority in place by April or May. Nov. 1 had been referred to by PLO officials as the "deadline" for the arrangements as cited in the letter of assurances issued by the U.S. prior to the launching of the peace talks in Madrid in October last year.

In any event, Mr. Arouni said "it all depends on the approach that the Israelis adopt in the peace talks and whether there would be any substantial change in their attitude."

Rabin

(Continued from page 1)

Army chief Ehud Barak said in the newspaper Hadashot Sunday he believed Mr. Assad had reached the conclusion that the peace talks with Israel were for the moment "the right thing."

Intelligence chief Major-General Uri Saguy told the newspaper Maariv: "For more than a year we have identified a clear Syrian interest in trying to find in the political process all that is possible."

Syria's chief negotiator said last week the last round of talks in Washington proved, "at least from our side, that peace is possible between Israel and the Arab side."

In one of several interviews marking the Jewish New Year, Gen. Saguy told the newspaper Davar he did not know what Mr. Assad would decide when faced with a compromise.

But he added: "Now at least he has no reason to imagine he won't get back the Golan Heights. He is even ready for it to be in stages, once the principle is decided."

Gen. Barak told the newspaper Al Hamishmar that Israel's experience with Mr. Assad, including a disengagement agreement after their 1973 war, showed "he stood by all the agreements with us to the last letter."

The army chief said Israel would hold on to all the Golan so long as there remained a possibility of war with Syria. But an impasse in negotiations with Syria might also lead to a confrontation, he warned.

Iran and UAE opens talks

(Continued from page 1)

belongs to Sharjah while Iran was allowed a military garrison, while Iran believes the agreement gave it the right to control the island's security.

Diplomats noted that the text of the 1971 memorandum on administration of the island noted that neither Sharjah nor Iran would cease their claim to the island.

There was no confirmation here of a report in the London-based Kuwaiti daily Sawt Al Kuwait that Syria, a close friend of both countries, had proposed they restore the status quo of joint administration and that Tehran had agreed.

Iran has accused the West of provoking the dispute as part of a plot against it, and privately circulated the idea that it tightened control over the island in recent months to foil an American plan to establish a naval base on the island.

The UAE is riding a wave of

strong Gulf, Arab, and international support as a result of the diplomatic offensive it mounted once began to assert its authority on Abu Musa.

Statements from Tehran have made clear that Iran would not concede it had made a mistake. Even on Saturday, the eve of the talks, Iranian Majlis (parliament) Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri was insisting Abu Musa's security was an Iranian prerogative.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told Oman and Qatar that Tehran seeks a peaceful solution to the dispute but has not changed its claim.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Velayati met Saturday with Foreign Ministers Qaboos Ben Sai'd Al Sai'd of Oman and Mubarak Ali Al Khattir of Qatar.

IRNA said Mr. Velayati reiterated in the meeting that Iran's position on the island remained unchanged but that it was ready to make an effort to reach a peaceful solution of the dispute.

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McEnroe, Sampras secure U.S. Davis Cup victory

ANNAPOLIS (Agencies) — John McEnroe and Pete Sampras, playing together for the first time, rallied from a 2-1 deficit Saturday and lifted the United States into the Davis Cup final by beating Sweden's Stefan Edberg and Anders Jarryd.

The 6-1, 6-7 (2-7), 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory gave the Americans a 3-0 lead in the best-of-5 semifinal, ending Sunday's singles matches — Jim Courier vs. Edberg and Andre Agassi vs. Jarryd — meaningless.

The United States will meet Switzerland, which leads Brazil 3-0 in its semifinal, Dec. 4-6 in Fort Worth, Texas.

McEnroe and Sampras couldn't return McEnroe's hard serve to his forehand, McEnroe earned his 58th Davis Cup victory — 20 more than any other American.

McEnroe and Sampras hugged at the net, a bonding of the 33-year-old star of tennis past and the 21-year-old hope of tennis future.

It was redemption for both McEnroe and Sampras. Along with Peter Fleming, McEnroe lost doubles to Edberg and Jarryd in the 1984 final, giving Sweden the cup. Sampras dropped his two singles matches in last year's championship-round loss in France.

Because McEnroe and Sampras had practiced poorly all week, Agassi and U.S. captain Tom Gorman said late Friday that a change was being contemplated.

But the Americans decided before Saturday's match to stay with McEnroe, one of the best doubles players ever, and Sampras, the No. 3 player in the world.

At first, the decision looked brilliant, as the U.S. pair broke Edberg and Jarryd three times in a first set that took only 26 minutes.

But momentum swung in the second-set tiebreaker, in which Sampras lost both his serves. The third set was on serve until Sampras double-faulted on break point at 4-5, giving Sweden the lead.

In the fourth, McEnroe and Sampras re-established control by breaking Jarryd to take a 2-1 lead. Later, Sampras' ace gave the United States a 5-3 lead. And when Edberg failed to convert on a serve-and-volley attempt, he was broken and the match was tied.

McEnroe and Sampras took a 3-0 lead to start the fifth set. From there, the United States only had to hold serve, which McEnroe did twice and Sampras

did once, losing only three points in the process.

The U.S. team, seeking only its second Davis Cup title since 1982, had taken a two-match lead Friday night when Courier beat Kulti and Agassi defeated Edberg.

Meanwhile Marc Rosset and Jakob Hlasek demolished Cassio Motta and Fernando Riese of Brazil in three sets Saturday to clinch a historic Swiss place in the Davis Cup tennis final.

Rosset and Hlasek, who had won their singles rubbers on Friday, took the doubles 6-3 6-4 6-3 to give Switzerland a winning 3-0 lead in the world group semifinal.

In December, Switzerland, who have never made the final before, will play the United States who beat Sweden 3-0 after the third day on Saturday.

In the mean time Russia, Germany, India and Spain locked up berths in the elite world group for next year's Davis Cup competition by winning decisive doubles matches Saturday.

Liverpool in crisis after loss to Wimbledon

LONDON (AP) — Liverpool's slump continues. After a 4-2 hammering at Aston Villa last week and a 4-4 home tie with third division Chesterfield in a Cup game midweek, the once-powerful Reds tumbled 3-2 at home to Wimbledon Saturday in English Premier League soccer action.

Liverpool hit back from 2-0 down to level at 2-2 before half time but Robbie Earle scored his second after the break and it proved to be the winner.

Liverpool had Zinedine Zidane on the team for the first time this season but the defense has leaked 11 goals in three games.

The result sent Graeme Souness' team down to the bottom four in the standings with only nine points from 10 games.

Saturday, routing Udo Lattek's club 6-1 and keeping pace with Bundesliga-leading Bayern Munich.

The victory improved Leverkusen's record to 4-4-0 and kept it one point behind 6-1-0 Bayern, which beat Borussia Dortmund 2-1.

In other German First-Division games Saturday, it was VFB Stuttgart 3, FC Kaiserslautern 1; FC Cologne 2, Borussia Moenchengladbach 1; SG Wattenscheid 2, Hamburger SV 2; Karlsruher SC 1, VfL Bochum 0; FC Nuremberg 2, Bayer Uerdingen 0; and Werder Bremen 0, Eintracht Frankfurt 0.

In other game, FC Saarbrücken drew with Dynamo Dresden 1-1.

After Papal's goal, Schalke defender Andreas Mueller put the ball in his own net in the 20th minute and Franco Foda added another for Leverkusen in the 57th.

In the 58th minute on, Jens Lehmann pulled ligament in his right knee and had to leave the game. But with Lattek already having used his two substitutes, midfielder Mike Buskus had to take over.

Strikers Ulf Kirsten and Andreas Thom took advantage, scoring in the 73rd and 90th minutes. Ingo Anderbrugg scored Schalke's only goal, a penalty in the 64th.

Elsewhere, Thomas Strunz and Fritz Walter put VFB Stuttgart ahead 2-0 by the 69th minute, and the defending champions cruised past Kaiserslautern at home. Martin Wagner scored to bring Kaiserslautern within a goal in the 70th, but Alexander Strahmel restored the two-goal margin and closed out the scoring in the 88th minute.

In Moenchengladbach, Frank Ordewitz scored in the 55th minute to break a 1-1 tie and give FC Cologne its first victory over the season. Polish midfielder gave Cologne the lead in the 25th, but Swedish national team striker Martin Dahlin tied in the 30th.

Meanwhile a hat-trick by Brazilian striker Romario fired PSV Eindhoven to a 5-1 Dutch soccer league victory over Maastricht Saturday, maintaining their 100 per cent record after five matches.

Beleaguered Maastricht equalized in the 11th minute, two minutes after Romario's first, but were unable to keep up with the pace of first division leaders Eindhoven.

Dutch midfielder Gerald Vanenburg and striker Juri Ellerman contributed to the rout by scoring in the 70th and 77th minutes for PSV, who have hit 19 goals, with only two conceded, in their first five games.

Ajax Amsterdam overturned an early 1-0 deficit and surged to a 4-2 home victory against Roda JC Kerkrade.

Roda seized the lead through Peter Hofstede after 11 minutes but Frank De Boer equalized in the 34th minute and Ajax swept their opponents aside with further goals from Stefan Pettersson, Dennis Bergkamp and Michel Kreek. Rene Troost reduced the deficit five minutes before the end.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

At the top, leader Norwich gained a 1-1 tie at second place Coventry and has 23 from 10. Coventry slipped to third because Blackburn jumped one place by beating Oldham 2-0 at home.

Blackburn's Alan Shearer, now England's first-choice striker since Gary Lineker retired from international soccer, scored his 11th goal of the season.

Manchester United remained fourth despite a goal-less tie at home to Queens Park Rangers but Aston Villa moved up to sixth after winning 3-2 at Middlesbrough which lost its unbeaten home record.

Dean Saunders, who scored twice against his former club Liverpool last week, netted two more against Middlesbrough and former Real Sociedad striker Dalian Atkinson grabbed Villa's other goal.

Champion Leeds welcomed back fit-again Frenchman Eric Cantona and celebrated his return by beating Everton 2-0. A Gary McAllister penalty and a diving header by Lee Chapman downed Howard Kendall's team.

Iain Dowie scored twice for Southampton — the second coming a minute from time — as his team won 2-1 at Crystal Palace, for whom John Salako missed a penalty.

Last place Nottingham Forest ground out a goal-less tie at Chelsea and the result was the same at Ipswich-Sheffield United, even though the home team had goalie Craig Forrest sent off after only two minutes for a professional foul.

Division one leader Newcastle made it eight wins from eight games with a 1-0 triumph at Peterborough to keep Kevin Keegan's team on course for promotion to the Premier League.

Scottish champion Rangers romped to a 4-0 victory at Dundee United with two goals from Dutch midfielder Peter Huijsa and others from Trevor Steven and Ally McCoist.

Second place Celtic was upset 2-1 at home by Patrick.

In the German soccer league, Pavel Hapal scored in the eighth minute and Bayer Leverkusen added a pair after Schalke had lost its goalkeeper to injury

Mansell wins Portuguese GP

ESTORIL, Portugal (R) — Newly-crowned Formula one champion Nigel Mansell claimed a record ninth win in a season at the Portuguese Grand Prix Sunday.

The victory was the 30th of Mansell's career and with two races remaining in Japan and Australia this year he has a chance to enlarge his record season total into double figures.

But for Mansell's Williams team it was a day of mixed fortune.

The Englishman's team mate Riccardo Patrese crashed spectacularly after 43 laps of the 71-lap race.

The Italian was lucky not to be seriously injured.

Patrese seemed to hit the rear of Austrian Gerhard Berger's McLaren as he attempted to pass him on the straight.

The Williams flew into the air and momentarily threatened to spin upside down, but fortunately it did not.

In a race littered with pit-stops and incidents, Mansell won in one hour 34 minutes and 46.659 seconds.

He was 37 seconds clear of Berger who was second for McLaren and who lapped the rest of the field.

Brazilian Ayrton Senna was third in the second McLaren after making four pit stops during the race.

Jansher Khan secures World Open Squash title

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — World No. 1 Jansher Khan of Pakistan mixed determination with tactical brilliance Saturday to defeat Australian Chris Dittmar in four games and win the World Open Squash Championships.

Khan, the British Open champion and top seed, scored a 15-11, 15-9, 10-15, 15-6 victory to secure his rating as the world's best player.

"I have won the British Open and I am the world number one," said the angular Khan, who seemed able to reach anything Dittmar hit. "It was my big wish to win the world championship."

Khan won his fourth World Open title, and all four have come at the expense of Dittmar received \$18,000.

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Seles overwhelms Sabatini

TOKYO (AP) — Top-ranked Monica Seles, peeling off 11 straight games, overwhelmed second-seeded Gabriela Sabatini 6-2, 6-0 Sunday and won her second consecutive Nihon International ladies tennis championship.

Sabatini was shut out after breaking Seles for a 2-1 lead in the first set of the hour-long match, played mostly from the baseline. Seles drilled passing shots past her Argentine opponent on the few occasions when she risked the net.

"She was more confident after leading 4-2 in the first set. She started to hit the ball harder," said Sabatini, the world's third-ranking woman tennis player.

"Playing with Seles, you have to take a lot of risks. Sometimes it goes in and sometimes it doesn't. She played a very good game."

In the eighth game, Sabatini began hitting backhand straight shots wide. Her hitting remained erratic in the second set.

Seles received 70,000 for her victory on the hard courts of the Ariake Coliseum. Sabatini won \$31,500.

"I probably played better on the important points but she made errors on such points," Seles said.

"I was very much satisfied this season," said the 18-year-old from Yugoslavia, who won the Australian, U.S. and French Opens this season and was a finalist at Wimbledon.

En route to the finals, Seles beat Taiwan's Wang Shi-Ting 6-0, 6-1 and Japan's eighth-seeded Naoko Sawamatsu 6-1, 6-0 but had to struggle to get past third-seeded American Mary Joe Fernandez 6-0, 3-6, 6-4 in the semifinals.

Sabatini defeated Japan's Rika Hiraki 6-3, 6-3, Japan's seventh-seeded Kimiko Date and 6-4, 6-2 and fourth-seeded Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria 6-3, 6-3 to reach the finals.

The top-seeded American pair of Fernandez and Robin White beat third-seeded Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia and Japan's Nana Miyagi 6-4, 6-4 for the doubles title.

The winning pair received \$21,000 and the losing pair 10,500.

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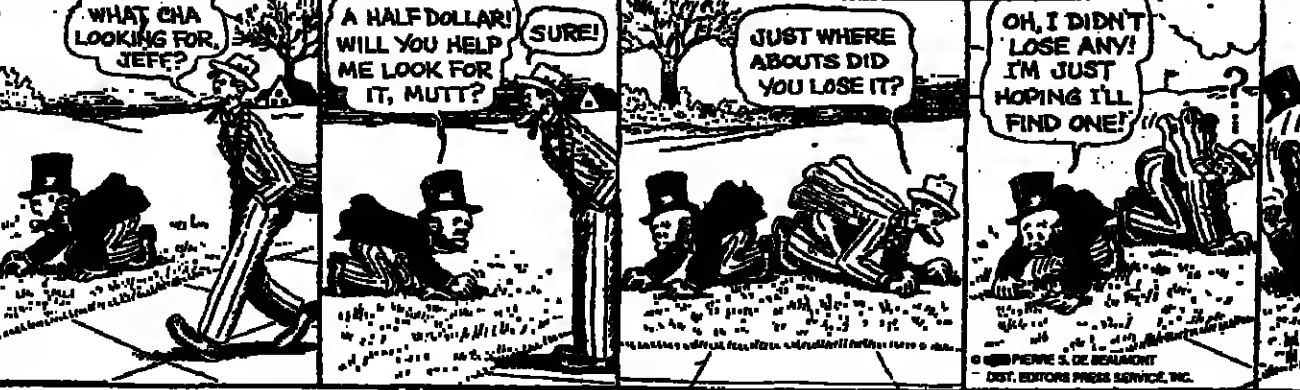
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Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

"If I overspend you call it wasteful. If you overspend you call it living life to the fullest!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SEEPH
KICCH
TAUNER
VEENAU

WHAT THE DOCTOR ASKED WHEN THE PATIENT CAME IN THROUGH THE WINDOW.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: WHERE'S " ? (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CRAFT DRYLY JIGGLE BEWAIL

Answer: If you try arguing with an author who knows his subject, you'll find that he might be this — WRITE

THE Daily Crossword by Florence C. Adler

ACROSS

1. Porcupine
2. Thailand
3. Receptacle
4. Against
5. Unconcerned
6. Turns to the right
7. Contradictory
8. General
9. Valiantly
10. Precursor of a slip
11. Request
12. Underlying cause
13. Distant
14. In —
15. (colloquial)
16. Legal matter
17. Clothing
18. Permission to
19. "Of — I Sing"
20. Abner
21. Kind of orange
22. Admission
23. Up (confess)
24. Yolk
25. Sign, composer
26. Signs up
27. Former Russ.
28. Sky
29. Wing-shaped
30. Surrounding
31. Heraldic border
32. Courtiers
33. Haul
34. Strong wind
35. Store up
36. Baiting cat
37. Train for a bout
38. Clumsy
39. Fit to —
40. Invalid court proceeding
41. Heterogeneous
42. Choose
43. Contenders
44. Draft status
45. Come together
46. Battle reminder
47. Little ones
48. Wrath
49. Sockpore
50. Function
51. Stalk
52. Air: pref.
53. Turn to slash
54. Nashville's state: abbr.
55. Quibbles over
56. Set true
57. Gutches
58. Ladder part
59. Ladder
60. See eagle
61. Wintry help
62. Sharp ridge in moldings
63. Ancient Asian kingdom
64. 50 Times
65. "I cannot —"
66. Biblical prophet
67. Scot. river

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA KIRICH

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TOO GOOD A HAND

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ A 8 2
♥ K 10 4
♦ A 7 5
♣ J 6 2

EAST

♠ K
♥ 7 5 3
♦ J 9 6
♣ K 9 8 7 5 3

SOUTH

♠ 10 9 7 6 4 3
♥ 6
♦ K Q 8
♣ Q 10 4

The bidding:

South West North East
Pass 1 ♣ Pass Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠

All too often we hear players wall: "I never get good cards." On this deal from a team match, West could claim legitimately the hand was too strong.

North's double on a balanced 12 points was a bit of a stretch, even though the king of hearts was well placed. However, it did save a later

problem—whether or not to balance, or what to do if South balanced with two spades. South's jump to four spades was a reasonable shot.

Had West been blessed with second sight, a trump would have been the opening lead. Thereafter, careful defense would have ensured the defeat of the contract. After a diamond salvo though, the defenders had no chance.

Declarer won in hand and led the six of hearts. West rose with the ace and tried to avoid an endplay by cashing the ace of clubs before continuing with a diamond, taken with the ace in dummy. Declarer discarded a club on the king of hearts, ruffed a heart, then cashed the ace of trumps and the diamond winner.

With the groundwork laid, declarer exited with a trump. West had to win the trick and, left with nothing but red cards, was forced to yield a ruff and shuffle. Declarer trumped on the table while discarding the remaining club from hand, and claimed the rest of the tricks.

Financial Markets

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (September 21-September 25, 1992)

AMMAN — Safe-haven considerations continued to be the dominant concern among market participants last week, after the previous week's chaotic events, and with ERM and Maastricht still undoubtedly the centre of attention. At the end of the week, the dollar was an average of 1.6 per cent lower against European currencies, and almost three per cent lower against the yen. Sterling, however, was 1.3 per cent lower against the dollar and 2.6 per cent lower against the mark, compared to the previous week.

The dollar slipped against most EMS currencies Monday on profit-taking, in the wake of the French "Yes" vote on the Maastricht treaty. The narrow 51.05 per cent approval by French voters only served to justify market woe over the future of European unity and EMS, however. These same fears were also deepened by signals that the Italian lira was not returning to the ERM Tuesday, as had been planned.

Tuesday saw the yen surge against the dollar and European currencies, as it was sought as a safe haven currency. The Japanese currency was also helped by the usual rise in demand for it by Japanese investors ahead of the end of the first half of the Japanese fiscal year. The dollar, on the other hand, rebounded against the mark despite the release of German money supply figures, pointing to a higher than expected growth in M3 by nine per cent in September, thus damping any hopes of a near term German interest rate cut. The mark and other European currencies were adversely affected by expectations of a wide ERM realignment. In line with market expectations, the Bank of England lowered the Base rate by another one per cent to nine per cent.

While the dollar continued to appreciate against European currencies Wednesday, it dropped against the yen hitting a record low of 119.60 yen, before closing at 120.15 yen, its lowest of the week. Against the mark, however, the dollar closed at its highest against the week at 1.5005 marks. Meanwhile, the French franc gained when the Bank of France tightened its monetary policy to support its intervention efforts, in a move aimed at containing speculative franc selling. Similarly, Spain and Ireland succeeded in supporting their respective currencies against speculative pressures by imposing exchange controls.

The U.S. currency drifted lower against European currencies towards the weekend, amidst turbulent and confused trading. A batch of U.S. economic statistics for August released Friday was unexpectedly disappointing, particularly as New Home Sales were reported to have dropped by 3.2 per cent despite mortgage rates being at their lowest in 19 years.

Durable Goods Orders also fell by 0.1 per cent personal income by 0.5 per cent and consumption expenditure was down by 0.1 per cent. Yet a wave of dollar short covering ensued ahead of the weekend as EMS blues soon over-shadowed the economic fundamentals.

As for this week, market participants await the release of the U.S. employment report for September, which many observers believe could determine if another U.S. interest rate cut is required or not.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	18/9/92	25/9/92	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.735	1.7125	-1.30%
Deutsche Mark	1.5035	1.4835	-1.35%
Swiss Franc	1.3075	1.2975	-0.77%
French Franc	5.1450	5.0124	-2.65%
Japanese Yen	124.51	120.92	-2.97%

* USD per STG

Swire-Currency Interest Rates*

Currency	18/9/92	25/9/92	1-Month (%)	3-Month (%)	6-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.72	5.31	5.72	5.72	5.72	5.72
Sterling Pound	10.38	8.40	10.56	8.40	8.40	8.40
Deutsche Mark	8.60	8.40	8.56	8.37	8.37	8.37
Swiss Franc	6.81	6.87	6.50	6.43	6.43	6.43
French Franc	10.50	9.50	11.00	9.50	9.50	9.50
Japanese Yen	4.31	3.75	4.34	3.75	3.75	3.75

Interest rate bid rates for accounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6790	0.6810
Sterling Pound	1.1596	1.1654
Deutsche Mark	0.4576	0.4599
Swiss Franc	0.5228	0.5254
French Franc	0.1353	0.1360
Japanese Yen*	0.5608	0.5636
Dutch Guilder	0.4063	0.4083
Swedish Krona	0.1224	0.1230
Italian Lira*	0.0547	0.0550
Belgian Franc	0.02224	0.02235

* Per 100

China moves to clamp control on stock market

BEIJING (R) — China has announced plans for three huge securities houses formed by state-owned banks to assert control over the country's stock and bond markets and restore flagging investor confidence.

Xinhua News Agency quoted central bank officials as saying the move would "foster and perfect a unified market in bonds and securities and safeguard stability in the markets."

Other state media made clear the securities houses would set to control prices and prevent wild market swings.

They will be based in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen — covering the whole country — and each will have paid up capital of one billion yuan (\$185 million).

The move seems aimed at helping central government stamp out control over China's two bourses in Shanghai and Shenzhen where share prices have roughly halved since a bull run ended in May.

Riots in Shenzhen in August sparked by allegations of corruption over a badly-hatched scheme to issue new shares sent shivers through the markets and highlighted the dangerous inexperience of local officials.

With a crucial Communist Party congress due to open Oct. 12, senior leader Deng Xiaoping and his reformist allies are anxious to ensure that China's boldest experiment with capitalist-style change is a success.

The bond market is also in the doldrums, partly because funds have been sucked into stocks and the property market.

Turkmenistan citizens to get free power, gas next year

MOSCOW (R) — The president of Turkmenistan, moving to fulfil a campaign promise, has announced that residents of his energy-rich republic will receive water, electricity and gas free of charge from January.

ITAR-TASS news agency said President Saparmurat Niyazov told a magazine interviewer that Turkmenistan could offset the shock of its planned economic reforms through increased exports of its big gas and oil resources.

"Simultaneously we shall take other measures to promote a transition to a market economy, but we shall not resort to shock therapy under any circumstances," Mr. Niyazov said.

The ex-communist Niyazov, the only candidate in last June's presidential polls, promised to make the remote republic a "second-Kuwait" — with a high standard of living guaranteed by energy exports. He won 99.5 per cent of the vote.

His ambitious promise is based on the immense natural resources of the mountainous republic, which borders Iran and Afghanistan. It produces 34 billion cubic metres of gas annually, 95 per cent of which is exported.

Big oil deposits have also been found and Turkmenistan is one of the world's largest cotton producers.

Jordanian banks resume production

Lime, brick firm to be buried soon

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The popular saying for comforting someone who lost something goes: "Al Awad Ala Allah," meaning "God is the indemnifier." And as things stand now at the Jordan Lime and Silicate Brick Industries Co. Ltd. (JLASBI), shareholders will not have any other choice except to say Al Awad Ala Allah when their company will be formally liquidated in the coming few weeks.

According to Saeed Hiyasat, the companies' comptroller at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the company had accumulated nearly JD 4.5 million in debts and was sold to creditor banks in a public auction, leaving shareholders no chance whatsoever to collect remnants of their investment.

Mr. Hiyasat said he was awaiting the summoning of the general assembly of JLASBI to a meeting which would wound up the company's affairs and subsequently enable him to proceed in crossing JLASBI out from all records.

An employee at the company told the Jordan Times that invitations were being prepared to shareholders to convene a meeting during the coming few weeks.

JLASBI, formed in 1975 to manufacture quicklime, hydrated lime and sand lime bricks, in addition to extracting and processing aggregated, crushed limestone and sand is now officially existing only as a company under liquidation. The factory and all assets previously held by JLASBI have been bought by creditor banks last year and operations have recently been resumed under the newly registered name: The Arab Lime and Building Materials Industries Co. Ltd. (ALABMI).

Farid Theodosy, a senior official at the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) and acting on behalf of the bank as chairman of the new entity, said that ALABMI was formed on Dec. 17, 1991, as a private shareholding company capitalised at JD 2 million spread among a few shareholders. The main ones are the Industrial Development Bank, the Business Bank, the Housing Bank, the Jordan Kuwait Bank and the Arab Bank Ltd.

Mr. Theodosy said the banks had no intention and were unwilling at first to acquire JLASBI but had no other choice as the bidders offered very low prices during the public auction which had become imperative due to the inability of the company to repay a syndicated loan.

"Had a party showed interest in acquiring JLASBI for a fairly reasonable price, the banks would not have hesitated to concede a deal and be satisfied with it."

The figures, the lowest in a decade, show exports in the 1990/91 season, which ended on Sept. 30 last year, at 36,078 tonnes.

In the 1980s, exports rose as high as 80,000 tonnes and were worth \$225 million in 1985/86, when world prices were high.

Unrest in the country's coffee-growing regions was a factor in the decline, economic analysts said. Much of the country was affected by the civil war which led to the downfall of president Mengistu Haile Mariam in May last year.

Smuggling also contributed greatly, they added.

Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi has said an unnamed neighbouring country had exported 10,000 tonnes of coffee in the past year — although it did not have a single coffee tree.

Analysts said the smuggling was encouraged by the artificially high value of the Ethiopian birr, which has been pegged at 2.07 to the dollar for the last quarter of a century.

Coffee accounts for 60 per cent of Ethiopia's export earnings and about a quarter of the country's 55 million people rely on it for their income.

Most of the crop is grown on small farms, with only about four per cent produced by plantations.

Ethiopian coffee exports decline

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia's official earnings from coffee, its main export crop, fell to \$90 million last year because of low world prices and rampant smuggling, officials of the Coffee Marketing Corporation have said.

The figures, the lowest in a decade, show exports in the 1990/91 season, which ended on Sept. 30 last year, at 36,078 tonnes.

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He explained that ALABMI has improved operations at the crushed, live-time and brick sections of the factory and has been bringing better kinds of sand which makes better quality lime silicate bricks that do not change colour.

But when and how came the "change in colour" for the original company?

According to the latest Jordanian Shareholding Companies Guide, issued by the Amman Financial Market for 1991, shares in the company traded at about JD0.170 in 1986, the earliest year the guide covers. In the years after, the share market value continued to fall until it reached JD 0.140 in 1989 before trading in JLASBI shares was suspended in 1990.

The book value of the share in 1990 was JD 0.013.

The company recorded big losses in each year since 1986. At the end of 1989, accumulated losses reached JD 4,446,257 and, to lower the loss, capital was decreased from JD 5 million to JD 2 million through amortising JD 2,999,700 of the retained losses.

JLASBI recorded another big loss, of nearly JD 500,000 in 1990 and shareholder's equity at the end of the year was only JD 25,659.

Other financial figures at the end of 1990 were:

— A negative working capital of JD 3.2 million;

— Total liabilities of JD 3.7 million;

— A 99.3 per cent ratio of liabilities to total assets;

— A 14523 per cent ratio of liabilities to equity;

JLASBI had a registered 2,190 shareholders, (2,131 Jordanians, 57 Arabs and two foreigners) at the end of 1990. Thirty-three of the shareholders were companies, government agencies or other entities, notably the Social Security Corp. (12.5 per cent) and Jordan Investment Corp. (11.5 per cent). The company had a workforce of 67 employees.

Mr. Theodosy, noting that JLASBI's operating costs were high and that competition was sharp, especially from low-priced lime imports, stressed that the new company has achieved promising results in the past six months.

"You can say that we are now running The factory very prudently, with exceptional managerial, financial and quality controls," he pointed out. "Our costs are down and our sales are picking up."

Mr. Theodosy said the banks had no intention and were unwilling at first to acquire JLASBI but had no other choice as the bidders offered very low prices during the public auction which had become imperative due to the inability of the company to repay a syndicated loan.

"Had a party showed interest in acquiring JLASBI for a fairly reasonable price, the banks would not have hesitated to concede a deal and be satisfied with it."

The figures, the lowest in a decade, show exports in the 1990/91 season, which ended on Sept. 30 last year, at 36,078 tonnes.

In the 1980s, exports rose as high as 80,000 tonnes and were worth \$225 million in 1985/86, when world prices were high.

Unrest in the country's coffee-growing regions was a factor in the decline, economic analysts said. Much of the country was affected by the civil war which led to the downfall of president Mengistu Haile Mariam in May last year.

Smuggling also contributed greatly, they added.

Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi has said an unnamed neighbouring country had exported 10,000 tonnes of coffee in the past year — although it did not have a single coffee tree.

Analysts said the smuggling was encouraged by the artificially high value of the Ethiopian birr, which has been pegged at 2.07 to the dollar for the last quarter of a century.

Coffee accounts for 60 per cent of Ethiopia's export earnings and about a quarter of the country's 55 million people rely on it for their income.

Most of the crop is grown on small farms, with only about four per cent produced by plantations.

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(Arabic)
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THELMA and LOUISE
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Special shows for children on Thursdays and Fridays at 11:00 a.m.

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at 6:00 p.m. daily
Shahrazad and Simbad play
A quiet comedy for all members of the family (adults and kids). Prior reservation is needed.
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The arrival of Mr. James W. Casten from USA on September 10th, 1992, an expert in setting up and designing food processing plants and providing technical assistants.
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Serbs capture strategic village as Muslims and Croats wrangle

SARAJEVO (R) — Serb heavy artillery opened up Sunday on the Sarajevo suburb of Dobrinja and around Vogosca just northwest of the capital, Bosnia Radio reported.

It said Serb aircraft had attacked Bosanski Brod in the north and were hitting Jajce further south. To the northeast, the Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency reported fierce fighting after Muslim forces attacked Serb positions near Vlasenica.

The Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) said a Muslim attack nearby was the most violent seen in that area. It said the attack followed the killing of an unspecified number of civilians. Eight Serb soldiers were killed, the agency added.

But these reports of fighting appeared less strategically significant than the apparent securing of a stretch of highway in southwest Bosnia-Herzegovina by Serb forces and news of friction between the Croat and Muslim allies who oppose them.

The Bosnian Serb military headquarters said its forces had captured the village of Tjente, along the highway that runs through southern Bosnia-Herzegovina and down to Dubrovnik in Croatia.

SRNA said: "The important strategic locality... was liberated after heavy combats against the Muslim army."

"In this way a sole front from Fiat, near Dubrovnik, to Visegrad has been established and the highway Gacko-Poca unblocked."

The Serbs are trying to establish a secure corridor in southern Bosnia and a supply route running up to Belgrade before the winter.

If the claim is confirmed, they

have now largely achieved this apart from the key town of Gorazde, which lies on the highway southwest of Visegrad, and where the Serb siege was recently lifted after three months of heavy shelling.

In northern Bosnia, Sarajevo Radio said a bridge was blown up in the town of Zepce in what it called "an incident between HVO (Croatian Defence Council) and Bosnian (Muslim) forces."

The incident, of which it gave no details, followed several others between the allies in the past four months in which at least six soldiers have been killed.

Last week, Croat forces blocked the path of Muslim soldiers when they tried to move into HVO positions south of the town of Mostar and forced them back to barracks.

The Muslim troops were from a new brigade set up by the Muslim-led government in Sarajevo to try to assert its authority in the area.

The two groups are allies in the fight against Serb irregulars opposed to independence for the former Yugoslav republic and who control 70 per cent of its territory.

At peace talks the Croats, like the Serbs, broadly favour a federal system in which each of the three ethnic groups would have autonomy.

But Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic fears that the Muslims, who are the largest of the three groups, would be squeezed out because they control only small pockets of territory. He is insisting on a unitary state.

HVO Chief of Staff Brigadier Milovoj Petkovic said the Bosnian successes would be far greater



A Serbian fighter reads a newspaper at the frontline during a lull in fighting in Bosnia.

ter without the strains in the alliance which reflected their differing goals.

Meanwhile, Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic said Saturday he expected the United Nations to start relaxing sanctions imposed against his country four months ago by as early as next week.

"I expect the U.N. Sanctions Committee to waive the ban on oil exports to Yugoslavia next week and allow China to sell oil purely for humanitarian purposes," he told Reuters.

He said his government had lodged a plea to the committee for a waiver involving 850,000 tonnes of oil for hospitals, schools and nurseries.

Mr. Panic arrived in Los Angeles in the middle of his two-week tour of the United States where he came to plead Yugoslavia's case in the United Nations and Washington.

He failed to prevent Yugoslavia's virtual expulsion from the General Assembly Tuesday but garnered support for his policy of

peace from the foreign ministers of the five permanent Security Council member states.

The West largely blamed Belgrade for the fighting in Bosnia. Mr. Panic, a self-made Yugoslav-born millionaire from California, took office two months ago and said one of his first tasks was to get the sanctions lifted.

"We will be the first country which will not try to bust sanctions or live with them. We are going to eliminate the causes which brought on the sanctions," he said.

He said he had won the backing of key members of the U.S. Congress during talks in Washington earlier this week.

"Senators Richard Lugar and Robert Dole gave me full support," he said, adding that the world community's attitude towards Yugoslavia was changing favourably since its expulsion from the Assembly.

"The reason why the attitude is changing for the better is that the West now sees in me an alternative course," Mr. Panic said.

Russians held hostage by both sides in Tajikistan clan fighting

MOSCOW (R) — Rival factions in Tajikistan's budding civil war have seized members of a Russian missile unit and threatened to kill them, a spokesman for the Russian Defence Ministry said Sunday.

The spokesman said an unknown number of soldiers, including a unit commander, were taken hostage from their base in the village of Lomonosovo, amid fierce fighting in the volatile Kurgan-Tyube region.

"I can only confirm that hostages were taken. We are trying to investigate the details," the spokesman said.

The capture of the Russian soldiers, apparently by both sides, threatened to raise the stakes in the internecine conflict tearing at Tajikistan, a remote Central Asian republic on the Afghan border.

But the spokesman said the

ex-Soviet Armed Forces in the area, now under Russian command, were trying to remain neutral.

Hundreds of people have died in recent clashes between supporters and opponents of ousted President Rakhmon Nabiyev, forced from office at gunpoint earlier this month.

Earlier, Interfax News Agency said the hostages faced a death threat unless tanks on the Russian base were destroyed. Interfax also said the armed gangs had captured 12 missiles from the anti-aircraft base.

Elsewhere, attackers seized two tanks and an armoured car from a separate Russian military outpost, the agency said.

"A fierce battle is under way between opposing armed groups in the (southern) Kurgan-Tyube region," it said.

Local officials could not be reached for comment but a tele-

phone operator in Kurgan-Tyube said shooting could be heard all around the regional capital.

The Defence Ministry spokesman in Moscow said the incident began when supporters of the ousted president, operating from their regional base of Kulyab, seized military hardware from the Russian base.

Clans hostile to Mr. Nabiyev, based in Kurgan-Tyube, then took several Russian soldiers hostage and threatened to kill them if the ex-Soviet forces did not retrieve the weapons or destroy them.

In a counter-move that illustrates the chaos gripping the republic, the Kulyab forces took Russian hostages of their own and said they would kill them if the remaining soldiers tried to fulfill their rivals' demand.

"The commander of the unit found himself in a hopeless situation," said the spokesman.

Romanians vote in double election

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanians faced with a choice between watered-down Communists and radical reformers streamed to polling stations Sunday in the most orderly democratic election since the collapse of Communist rule.

The country's 16.4 million voters are being asked to choose a president and both houses of a new parliament.

The main choice focuses on the two leading presidential rivals — incumbent President Ion Iliescu, a veteran Communist, and university rector Emil Constantinescu.

The battle for parliamentary seats is chiefly between the left-wing Democratic National Salvation Front (DNSF) of Mr. Iliescu and Mr. Constantinescu's Democratic Convention. But nationalists as well as the former ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) Party may also win a significant chunk of the ballot.

Across the country of 23 million people, voting began at dawn in crisp and sunny autumn weather and there were signs the turnout would be high despite fears of absenteeism.

Elderly folk put on their best clothes and were first in line at

the voting centres, many located in schools.

The balloting is the fifth major voting exercise and the second general election since Stalinist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was overthrown and executed in Eastern Europe's bloodiest anti-Communist revolution in December 1989.

But the first general elections in May 1990 were tarnished by violence and intimidation, and there were some allegations of foul play in a subsequent referendum on a new constitution as well as in two rounds of local government polls this year.

By midday Sunday there was no sign of trouble or major incidents of cheating.

"Nothing special has been reported so far... there were some attempts to make electoral propaganda which is a contravention. Police responded by resorting to the fines stipulated under the law," Interior Minister Victor Babice said.

The Romanian News Agency, Romena, said leaflets of the DNSF, NSF and hardline nationalist Romanian National Unity Party were found outside some polling stations in violation of the election law. But such

incidents seemed to be exceptions.

In the parliamentary ballot 7,253 candidates are running for the 328-seat Chamber of Deputies and 3,267 are fighting for the 143 seats in the upper house, the Senate.

Some 16 per cent of the electorate voted in the first four hours. "I hope this election will first of all give legitimacy to the political structure of parliament. Romania needs stability must provide it," Prime Minister Theodor Stolojan said as he voted near his central Bucharest apartment.

Mr. Stolojan reluctantly became head of a caretaker coalition government a year ago after NSF leader Petre Roman was ousted by rioting coalitions.

Mr. Stolojan's main task has been to keep austerely market economy reforms on course and to organise the polls which are being closely watched by the West for signs Romania is truly embracing democracy and the free market.

"I trust the voters' strength and wisdom," Mr. Iliescu commented as he cast his ballot.

His chief rival refused an invitation to jump the queue as he arrived to vote.

Ramos confronts past that refuses to die

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Fidel Ramos, confronting a past that refuses to fade away, has challenged critics to take him to court over his role as martial law jailer of former President Ferdinand Marcos.

Overthrown in a 1986 "people power" revolt, Mr. Marcos died in exile in Hawaii in 1989.

But Gen. Ramos, at a news conference Saturday dismissed attempts to personally link him to the abuses.

"I exerted every effort to improve the effectiveness of law enforcement as well as to make martial law more compassionate," he said.

"I was among those who kept punishing scoundrels in uniform, especially those that were clothed with police authority."

Although he eventually turned against Mr. Marcos and helped lead the 1986 uprising against him, the issue of collaborating with the regime has constantly haunted the former police general.

He did not repent for his role as Mr. Marcos' jailer.

Gen. Ramos, who defeated six other candidates, said he had nothing for which to apologise.

The jury decision in Hawaii Thursday finding the estate of Mr. Marcos liable for the torture, killing, rape and disappearance of thousands of dissidents again brought the Ramos past into the spotlight.

The lawsuit, demanding \$11 billion in damages, was filed by lawyers on behalf of 10,000 Filipino dissidents who allegedly suffered from the atrocities.

Manila's national dailies Sunday welcomed the American jury's decision and said it was a warning to future dictators.

They said the swiftness of the trial, which lasted less than two weeks, should also serve as an example to Philippine courts, where cases drag on unresolved for years with no guarantee that the guilty parties will be convicted.

Clinton leads in three-way race as candidates spar on economy

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush and Bill Clinton traded barbs over their economic programmes as two nationwide polls showed Mr. Clinton holding a comfortable lead even if billionaire Ross Perot revives his dormant campaign.

Democrat Clinton also insisted that he acted within legal procedures in seeking to avoid the Vietnam War draft.

But the issue that has dogged Mr. Clinton's candidacy appears to be fading as a political liability as a substantial majority of Americans polled said they think Republican emphasis on his draft status is overstated.

At the same time, the Time magazine/CNN and Newsweek magazine polls also showed a majority of voters think Mr. Bush is not telling everything about his role in the Iran-contra affair.

Mr. Bush, hoping to get his own faltering campaign back on track, used a train tour of Ohio and Michigan to "blow the whistle" on the Arkansas governor and charge that his rival will raise taxes on middle income Americans.

The president charged that Mr. Clinton has said he would raise \$150 million in taxes, by raising taxes on the top two per cent of taxpayers and closing loopholes on foreign investors in the United States would hurt middle class Americans.

"To get the full \$150 billion Bill

Clinton will have to tax individuals at \$36,600 a year," Mr. Bush said in Marysville, Ohio.

"Governor Clinton is no friend of the middle class," he said. "Bill Clinton's taxes are wrong for America."

Several thousand people turned out in Marysville to cheer Mr. Bush as he prepared for a trip to Michigan aboard a train dubbed the "spirit of America" in a bid to revive memories of Harry Truman's stunning upset win in the 1948 election.

Mr. Clinton, campaigning in three New England states where he is leading in the polls, kept up a steady barrage of attacks on Mr. Bush's economic record and disputed the president's claims.

"He has no credibility on taxes and he can't count," Mr. Clinton said in Burlington, Vermont. "Everything he said is wrong."

Three-fourths of his own party voted against his last budget. He raised taxes on everybody. It's just bull."

In the Time/CNN nationwide poll, Mr. Clinton held a 49 per cent to 37 per cent lead in a two-way race, while the Newsweek poll gave him a 50 per cent to 40 per cent in a two-way contest.

If Mr. Perot, the wealthy Texas whose name is on all 50 state ballots, activates his campaign the Time/CNN poll said he would receive just 17 per cent support, with Mr. Clinton at 43 per cent and Mr. Bush at 32 per cent.

With an inactive Perot cam-

paign, the independent, drew 13 per cent in the Time/CNN survey, with 44 per cent for Mr. Clinton and 32 per cent for Mr. Bush.

A three-day race in the Newsweek survey showed Mr. Clinton at 46 per cent, Mr. Bush at 37 per cent and Mr. Perot at nine per cent.

Mr. Perot had never formally declared his candidacy when he announced in mid-July that he would not seek the presidency. But speculation that he would enter the race was rekindled recently after Mr. Perot scheduled television appearances and meetings with high-level Bush and Clinton representatives for Monday.

The Los Angeles Times reported Thursday that Mr. Perot would announce his candidacy Monday, but Orson Swindle, national executive director of the Perot volunteers, told Reuters Friday that he had just spoken with Mr. Perot and he knew of no plans for such an announcement.

The two polls are the first conducted since speculation of a renewed Perot candidacy emerged.

The Time/CNN poll also showed that 62 per cent felt the Republican emphasis on Mr. Clinton's draft record is overstated and that 63 per cent feel Mr. Bush is lying when he says he was "out of the loop" on the Iran-contra arms-for-hostages deal.

France seeks formula to keep Maastricht alive

PARIS (R) — A week after its grudging "yes" to European union triggered the latest European Community crisis, France is searching for a face-saving formula to salvage the endangered Maastricht Treaty.

Despite widespread speculation, French officials insist Paris is not plotting a "two-speed Europe" with Germany, that would leave reluctant Britain, recalcitrant Denmark and insolvent Italy in the slow lane.

On the contrary, French diplomacy is working flat-out to find ways to enable the British and the Danes to accept European political, economic and monetary union.

President Francois Mitterrand has invited British Prime Minister John Major for talks this week to explore how the treaty can be saved at next month's emergency summit.

France and Germany share the same aim, officials say.

But for once, France is better placed to talk to Britain than are the Germans, whom London publicly blamed for forcing this month's humiliating devaluation of the pound.

"We are going to do everything we can to make things easier for Mr. Major by clarifying issues

which still cause concern and finding a solution to the Danish problem," European Affairs Minister Elisabeth Guigou said.

Mr. Major is very committed to ratification. The problem is how he can get a majority in the House of Commons," she told the newspaper Liberation.

Mrs. Guigou said France backed the idea of adding a declaration to the treaty that would spell out the limits of the EC's sphere of competence and pledge to make decision-making more democratic.

She even hinted the declaration might remove certain areas into which the executive commission had encroached.

Mrs. Guigou noted the idea of a "variable geometry Europe" in which different countries reached common goals at a different pace already existed in the Maastricht Treaty.

Officials said that was quite different from the motion France, Germany and the Benelux countries should rush toward an accelerated economic and monetary union ahead of the others.

French officials said Paris had a strong interest in keeping Britain and France's Mediterranean neighbours on board to counterbalance the power of Ger-

many.

A five-nation "mini-Europe" would do the opposite.

French officials were infuriated by European Commission President Jacques Delors' veiled threat last week that the committed Europeans would go ahead on their own if Britain dragged out the ratification process.

"Delors was certainly not floating any trial balloon for us, believe me," a senior French official said.

Another said Mr. Delors, whose comments were counterproductive during the Danish and French referendum campaigns, had "missed another good opportunity to keep his mouth shut."

Apart from alienating Britain, he said, Mr. Delors also risked causing new turbulence on currency markets, still tense after last week's run on the French franc was halted by joint action by the French and German central banks.

Mr. Mitterrand and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl made a start on efforts to stabilise the European Monetary System (EMS) and save Maastricht in Paris talks last Tuesday.

Their silence afterwards was a sign of their determination to proceed cautiously and extend a

hand to Britain.

"The most welcome sound in Paris this week was the silence after the Kohl-Mitterrand meeting and the sound of intense thinking," a British diplomat said.

Another sound meant to soothe British and continental European public misgivings about Maastricht was the pious "commission-bashing" in vogue across Europe.

Mr. Kohl said after his Paris talks it was time to halt the "regulatory folly" of the Brussels executive.

Mrs. Guigou said there had been bureaucratic excesses. Europe was suffering from "too much bureaucracy and too little democracy."

The minister said it would not be tragic if the implementation of Maastricht was delayed a few weeks beyond the date foreseen in the treaty, Jan. 1, 1993.

French officials are not yet prepared to discuss what happens if it turns out neither Britain nor Denmark is able to ratify even a "clarified" Maastricht Treaty.

"We are still working on getting the treaty ratified by all," one said. "We are not working on a fall-back solution."

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Roh arrives in China

PEKING (R) — South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo arrived in China Sunday for a landmark trip to mark the diplomatic ties established last month between two former ideological foes. Kim Jong-il, head of North Korea, announced Mr. Roh's arrival by special plane with a news flash, showing the importance of this visit to China, which has worked hard to forge new diplomatic relations around the world. Mr. Roh, accompanied by a 15-member entourage and dozens of leading businessmen, will be formally welcomed by Chinese President Yang Shangkun Monday, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said. Mr. Roh will also meet with Premier Li Peng and Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin during his four-day stay. "I will meet Chinese leaders and overcome past misunderstandings that existed between Korea and China, and with a relationship of real reciprocity laid down as the base, we will negotiate to move towards opening a new era," Mr. Roh said as he left Seoul.

Kennedy's father-in-law charged with fraud

LAFAYETTE (AP) — Sen. Edward Kennedy's father-in-law, Edmund Reggie, was convicted of defrauding a Savings and Loan. Mr. Reggie, who founded Acadia Savings and Loan in 1957, was convicted on two counts of fraud, and the theft of a former president, Kenneth Comenau, was convicted on one count. Each charge carries a possible sentence of five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. U.S. District Judge John Shaw has not set a sentencing date. Mr. Reggie was acquitted of a third charge that he illegally charged a borrower \$14,000 in closing costs on a loan, the office said. He is the father of Victoria Reggie, who married the Democratic senator from Massachusetts this summer.

Burma revokes martial law orders

BANGKOK (R) — Burma's military junta has revoked martial law decrees giving regional commanders the right to try suspected opponents before military tribunals, official Rangoon Radio reported. Two decrees in force since mid-July 1989 have been revoked "in view of the improved general situation in the country and in consideration of the interests of the people," said the report, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation. It said the order was signed by Major-General Khin Nyunt, the powerful chief of military intelligence. The junta introduced the decrees to try to stamp out pro-democracy agitation led by opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner. She was placed under house arrest on July 20, 1989, and many of her supporters were jailed after summary trials before military tribunals.

Zulu leader breaks off talks with Pretoria

EWAMASHU, South Africa (AP) — Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the country's second most powerful black leader, broke off negotiations with the government Sunday, dampening hopes that South Africa's political crisis can be resolved soon.

The announcement by Mr. Buthelezi, head of the Zulu-dominated Inkatha Freedom Party, came a day after his rival, African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela, met President F.W. de Klerk in a bid to restart black-white negotiations.

Mr. Buthelezi, in an angry speech at a Zulu rally, said he was not adequately consulted on agreements reached by Mr. De Klerk and Mr. Mandela in their day-long meeting Saturday outside Johannesburg.

"My view is that negotiation for the future constitution for South Africa cannot go ahead," Mr. Buthelezi told some 10,000 cheering supporters in Kwa-mashu, a black township outside the eastern port city of Durban.

"I will withdraw... from further discussions with the government until I have had the opportunity to consult widely on the way forward," he added.

Mr. Buthelezi was dressed in leopard skins and holding a cowhide shield for the rally commemorating Shaka Zulu, the 19th century warrior-king who unified and expanded the Zulu empire.

In the Zulu warrior tradition, virtually all the men in the crowd brandished weapons, including clubs, spears and axes.

South Africa's political crisis

has steadily worsened since June, when the ANC broke off black-white talks on ending apartheid to protest mounting political violence.

Mr. Mandela and Mr. De Klerk said they made substantial progress Saturday in what was seen as the most positive political development in the past three months.

The two leaders were not able to settle all their differences. But both sides made concessions and they indicated Saturday that constitutional negotiations could resume soon, possibly within weeks.

Mr. De Klerk agreed to release several hundred black activists jailed for politically motivated crimes. The ANC pledged to re-evaluate its campaign of mass protests, which often result in violence.

The agreements also called for restrictions on carrying weapons in public and for fences to be placed around migrant workers' hostels.

Those measures were seen as victories for the ANC because they will effect mainly Inkatha supporters who control many hostels and insist on carrying weapons.

Mr. Buthelezi's withdrawal from talks further complicates the political scene, and there is little chance of a breakthrough without his participation.

The relatively conservative Buthelezi generally has had good relations with Mr. De Klerk and there has been talk of a government-Inkatha alliance to oppose the ANC.

COLUMN

Concert gives relief to storm victims

MIAMI (R) — A star-studded benefit concert for hurricane victims in South Florida, Louisiana and Hawaii drew a crowd of about 50,000 and raised more than \$1 million in ticket sales, organisers said. "We want to help all of us come out of the dark," pop singer Gloria Estefan, who organised the concert, told the crowd at Joe Robbie Stadium. Many of them spent days or weeks without lights in the aftermath of hurricane Andrew which ripped through South Florida on Aug. 24, damaging more than 100,000 homes. Estefan, whose family had to evacuate their home on exclusive Star Island near Miami Beach when Andrew roared ashore causing upwards of \$20 billion in damage, said she was stunned by the devastation to the community she calls home. Among the other stars at the concert were Spanish crooner Julio Iglesias, salsa star Celia Cruz, Cuban-born actor Andy Garcia, reggae's Rita Marley, singer-songwriter Paul Simon, British rock band Asia, the rock group Crosby, Stills and Nash and comedians Whoopie Goldberg and Elaine Bosler. Some of the performers had personal stories to tell and for the first time since the storm struck, many of Andrew's victims joined in laughter. "I came here because my parents live in hometown," Bosler told a boisterous crowd. "They lost their house and everything in it. When I saw that they were alive and healthy I had just one thought," she quipped. "You're not moving in with me."

Experts: 12% of U.S. women will get breast cancer

WASHINGTON (AP) — One in eight American women will get breast cancer sometime during her life, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) calculates. Previously, the institute said one in nine American women would contract breast cancer by age 85, a figure NCI says is still valid. The new figure is based on lifelong chances of getting cancer, including women over age 85. The institute said the new figure also is higher because there have been more breast cancer cases documented and because people are living longer — risk increases with age. Rep. Mary Rose Oakar revealed the new statistic while publicising efforts to spend more federal money on breast cancer research. "We spend \$1.1 billion on AIDS research," she said. "If you take the total amount spent, it's about \$185 million for breast cancer... That's research, clinical trials, everything. It's peanuts compared to what they give for AIDS."

Politician cleared of scuffle with beauty queen

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — In a trial marked by slaps, sobes and snickers, the island's house speaker was cleared of charges he assaulted a former beauty queen. But the scandal left his political career reeling. "Justice was done," Jose Ronaldo Jarabo, 48, said Friday after a judge found him innocent. Elizabeth Zayas, a former Miss Puerto Rico, charged that Mr. Jarabo, enraged by rumours that his wife was having an affair with her husband, barged into her apartment and attacked her in September 1991. Mr. Jarabo, however, said she assaulted him — bearing his chest to show bruises he claims she inflicted. During a hearing, Mr. Jarabo's wife slapped Ms. Zayas' husband, claiming the trial damaged her reputation. The trial left Mr. Jarabo's political aspirations in ruins. Mr. Jarabo, who had been considered a possible gubernatorial candidate, lost in May 31 primaries. After the trial, Mr. Jarabo went from the courthouse to a church, where he received a congratulatory call from Gov. Rafael Hernandez Colon.

Principal to spend night on the roof

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP) — An elementary school principal who bet his students that they couldn't read 4,0